



## Wilmington Library News:

# Pop-Tart candy cottages on Tuesday, Dec. 17

**Adult Programs****Needleworkers at Night***Monday, Dec. 16, 6 p.m.*

These nighttime sessions are perfect for anyone who does any kind of needle craft but can't make it to Needleworkers during the day! Drop-in. Now meeting every Monday in the cozy seating area on the first floor of the Library.

**HYBRID DEI Book Group***Monday, Dec. 16, 6:30 p.m.*

The current book is *The Deviant's War* by Eric Cervini. This meeting will cover chapter 15 through the epilogue (140 pages). This meeting can be attended in person or virtually via Zoom.

**Drop-in Tech Help***Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2 p.m.*

*Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2 p.m.* Have a tech question that's been bugging you? Stop by Drop-in Tech Help.

**VIRTUAL****50+ Job Seekers****Networking Group***Wednesday, Dec. 18, 9:30 a.m.*

The Massachusetts Library Collaborative's 50+ Job Seekers Group meets via Zoom on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. This week's topic (Dec. 18) is Marketing Plan.

**Afternoon Diamond Painting***Thursday, Dec. 19, 2:30 p.m.*

Learn how to make your own "diamond-painted" snowflake magnet with Marketing Librarian and diamond-painting enthusiast, Mary.

**Novel Ideas***Thursday, Dec. 19, 6:30 p.m.*

Enjoy reading fiction? Join the library's fiction book group led by Adult Services Librarian Erin Driscoll. Please stop by the library to pick up a copy of the featured book. This month's featured book is *My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante.

**Needleworkers***Friday, Dec. 20, 10 a.m.*

This is a social group for those who do any kind of needle craft. Bring your

knitting, crocheting, quilting, etc. and enjoy conversation and camaraderie. Drop-in.

**Youth Programs****Wilmington Community Playgroup***Monday, Dec. 16, 10 a.m.*

The Community Teamwork Family Resource Network is here weekly! Join CTI for a community playgroup where we'll work on Early Literacy skills and much, much more! Ask CTI about any resources they can help provide for you and your family. The first playgroup of every month will focus on infants and toddlers. Ages 0-6, siblings welcome

**Drop-in****Pajama Storytime***Monday, Dec. 16, 6 p.m.*

Wear your coziest winter pajamas and join us at our Drop-In Pajama Storytime! We'll read books and dance along to music and rhymes! Ages 2-6

**Pop-Tart****Candy Cottages***Tuesday, Dec. 17, 6:30 p.m.*

Join us for a WML tradition: crafting delicious candy cottages out of Pop-Tarts in this wintry, sugary program! Grades 6-12

**Gingerbread House Making!****(Waitlist Only)***Wednesday, Dec. 18, 3:45 p.m.*

Decorate your very own gingerbread house with graham crackers and candy! Kids can use frosting and graham crackers to construct a house of their own design! Optional: To make your structure stronger and make the construction process easier, attendees can bring a milk carton (8 fl oz or smaller) to use as a base. Kids of all ages

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▲ Register now for Pop-Tart Candy Cottages on Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 6:30 p.m.! Students in grades 6-12 can join us for a WML tradition: crafting delicious candy cottages out of Pop-Tarts!

(Courtesy photo)

milk carton (8 fl oz or smaller) to use as a base. Kids of all ages

**Manga Tryouts***Thursday, Dec. 19, 3:30 p.m.*

Have a say in manga purchased for the teen collection with this new club! During each meeting, we'll sample 1st volumes of different manga, and vote on whether it should be added to WML's collection. Grades 6-12

ing skills with Therapy Dog, Stormy! Sign up for one 15-minute session per child or family. Grades K-6

**Switch It Up!****Video Game Club***Friday, Dec. 20, 3:45 p.m.*

Love video games? Come to this once-a-month video game club to play Switch games with friends! Grades 1-5

**Additional Information****Book Store Next Door**

The Book Store Next Door is open on Wednes-

days and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Shop discount books! Paperbacks for \$1 and hardcovers for \$2. The Book Store is staffed by volunteers from the Friends of the Library and all proceeds help support library programs.

Registration is required for most in-person programs. Please check our website on the day of the program to confirm location. Masks are no longer required for vaccinated patrons while visiting the library.

**Museum Passes**

The library has discounted passes to your favorite Massachusetts museums, attractions, and state parks. Find the full list on our website!

**WML In-Person Programming****WML Virtual Programming**

The library continues to offer a variety of virtual events. Please note that registration is required in order to receive the Zoom link. Go to [wilm.library.org](http://wilm.library.org) to register or call 978-658-2967.

*Advertisement*

**It's Your Money**  
by Todd Brisbois

**TAXPAYERS SHOULDN'T LET GIFT CARD SCAMMERS RUIN THE HOLIDAYS**

During the holiday season, taxpayers should be aware of gift card scams that commonly use this time of year. Con artists will target taxpayers by asking them to pay a fake tax bill with gift cards. They may also use a compromised email account to send emails requesting gift card purchases for friends, family or co-workers. This scam is easy to avoid if taxpayers remember that the IRS never asks for or accepts gift cards as payment for a tax bill. Here's how this scam usually happens:

- A scammer posing as an IRS agent will call the taxpayer or leave a voicemail with a callback number informing the taxpayer that they are linked to some criminal activity. For example, the scammer will tell the taxpayer their identity has been stolen and used to open fake bank accounts.
- The scammer will threaten or harass the taxpayer by telling them that they must pay a fictitious tax penalty.
- The scammer instructs the taxpayer to buy gift cards from various stores.
- Once the taxpayer buys the gift cards, the scammer will ask the taxpayer to provide the gift card number and PIN.

The IRS will never:

- Call to demand immediate payment using a specific payment method such as a gift card, prepaid debit card or wire transfer.
- Demand that taxpayers pay taxes without the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they owe.
- Threaten to bring in local police, immigration officers or other law enforcement to have the taxpayer arrested for not paying.
- Threaten to revoke the taxpayer's driver's license, business licenses or immigration status.

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## Town Meeting agrees to language change for clarity

**ARTICLE 2 FROM PAGE 1.**

ing overlay zoning district — saying that the current by-law language didn't meet state requirements or case law today.

"Regardless of any other articles, we should make this change to be accurate," she stated.

Another resident asked if the Planning Board endorsed the article and whether this change was required by the state.

Town Moderator Jonathan Eaton clarified that the Planning Board endorsed the article. Gingrich explained that this article was not part of the multi-family housing zoning overlay district, but it would make sure that the town by-law has no conflicting or inappropriate language.

Several residents questioned the determination of what is a "reasonable" condition. Gingrich first suggested that the appeal process available to any applicant would decide what conditions were and weren't reasonable. She went on to say that some of their typical conditions

establish work hours for construction, pre-construction meetings, and things of this nature.

She said that the process typically ends with the applicant being satisfied with the conditions.

Town Counsel Mark Reich added that this article was meant to be a clean-up item following the decisions of courts that interpret the site plan review process. He added that the conditions would not be arbitrary.

"It was pointed out that this was an inconsistency based on the law as it stands currently," he said.

He also mentioned that this issue was not specific to Wilmington and restated that this had nothing to do with the articles to be discussed later in the meeting about the multi-family housing zoning district.

A resident made a motion then to move the question so that debate would end on this article. The vote to move the question passed.

The article was then approved, with 341 votes in favor and 52 against.

**Get Your 2025 Wall Calendar 22" x 29"**

<b>JANUARY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>MARCH</b>
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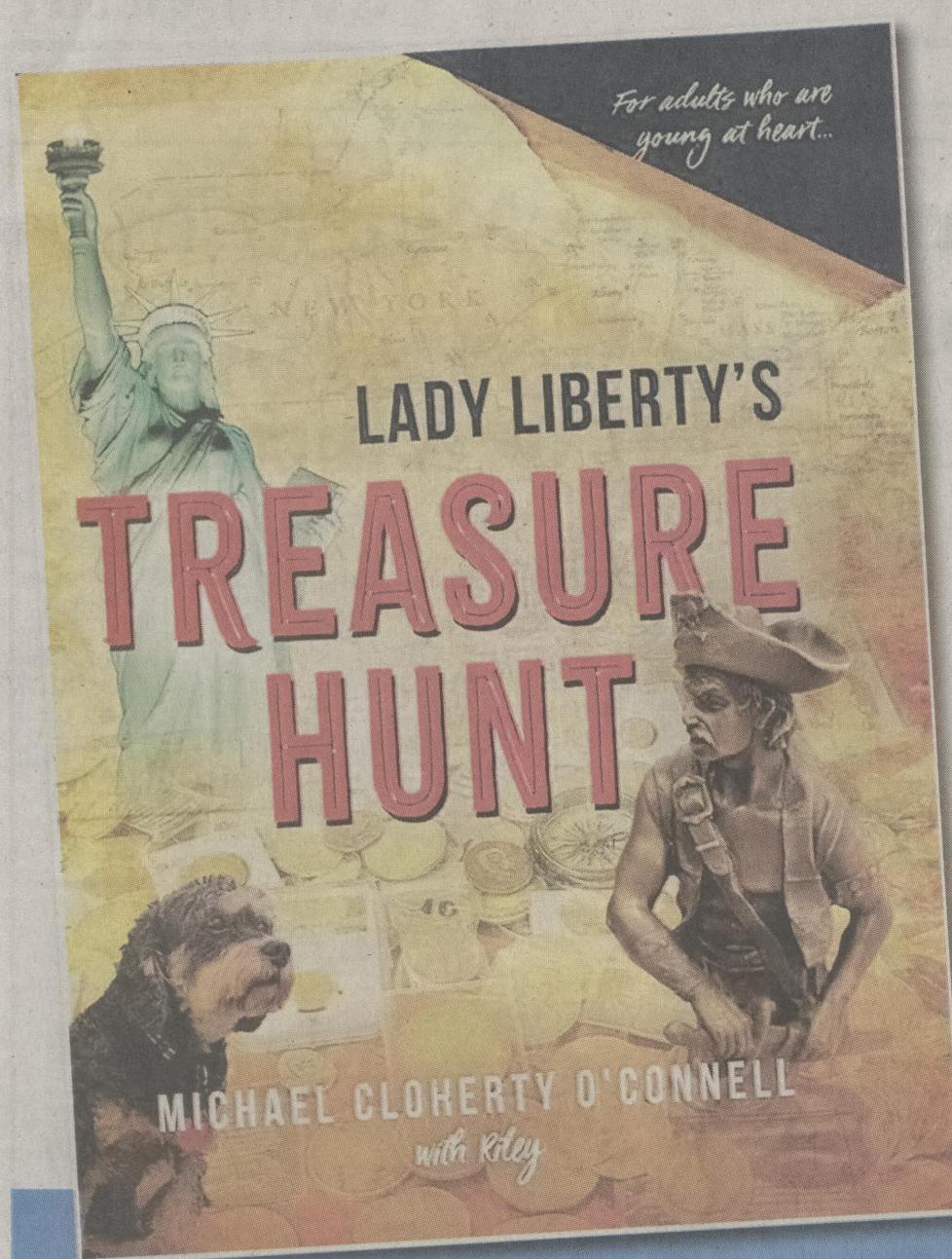
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## Lifestyle

# History lesson with a twist

By PAIGE IMPINK  
News Correspondent

**M**ichael Cloherty O'Connell loves history. The local author has been studying history all his life, having travelled to many significant American historical sites both as a youngster and later as an adult.

O'Connell has now combined his passion for colonial New England and the American Revolution with the modern twist of a treasure hunt. Using his two books, Riley's Treasure

Chase and Lady Liberty's Treasure Hunt, O'Connell takes readers on an educational and engaging adventure.

Having grown up in Lexington, O'Connell was shaped by the history of the founding of America and the stories of those who fought for freedom. As the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Lexington and Concord inches closer, O'Connell has created a quest, complete with a prize, for those willing to embark on a treasure hunt of a lifetime.

Said O'Connell, "between the two books, you can get your share of more than \$100,000 that is out there."

O'Connell is hoping that families will follow the quest as an activity, including travelling to featured locations in the book, traversing New England, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

A former leader of Boy Scout Pack 79 Tewksbury/Andover, O'Connell is still involved with the scouts and leaned on his experience to create questions.

"Teaching kids by using questions helps them to reflect and find answers," said O'Connell.

O'Connell describes the books as appropriate for all, but has added a PG-13 rating to Lady Liberty's Treasure Hunt.

"There are some themes of loss in this book. I wanted parents to just be aware in case the topic had not already be broached at home," said O'Connell.

As to the local connection in the stories, O'Connell feels that Tewksbury, Billerica, and Wilmington have been left out of most historical discussions about the Battle of Lexington and Concord, and the American Revolution.

"It was Captain John Trull who gathered his men to march to Billerica, then on to Bedford, and then to Meriam's Corner. Wilmington also gathered their soldiers," said O'Connell.

nell. O'Connell hopes that people will follow the line of march markers in Tewksbury, Billerica, and Bedford to see the path the minutemen took.

"Getting people out and away from their computers is a goal in addition to teaching history," said O'Connell, whose passion for the outdoors plays a large part in his books.

O'Connell said he wrote the book the way a spider builds a web.

"I jump across time in the books, looking ahead, looking back. You could be in present day, or 250 years ago, and then linked back to something 30 years ago. It's deliberate and an interesting way to write — there is no straight line," said O'Connell, who received awards for writing in his youth.

In addition to revolutionary heroes such as William Dawes and Paul Revere, O'Connell uses real people and characters in his stories, such as his beloved Cavapoo, Riley, and longtime family friend and Eagle Scout Robert Pothier of Tewksbury.

O'Connell said the treasure hunt started on Nov. 5, the day the books were published. The clues are fully within the covers of the two books and he hopes parents will let their kids solve the puzzles on their own.

"They will need their parents to get them to some of the locations physically, but my hope is the 'figuring out' will happen by the kids," said O'Connell of Riley's Treasure Chase.

O'Connell is on the cover of Lady Liberty's Treasure Hunt, depicted as a bronze pirate. He hopes that this difficult, more adult quest will bring family and friends together to find the treasure. When the treasure is eventually found, O'Connell will require proof in the form of a photo.

He's excited to see his readers make history of their own.

▲ The Line of March on Chandler Street follows the path that Tewksbury minutemen, led by Captain John Trull, marched to Billerica and Bedford on the way to Meriam's Corner and the start of the American Revolution. Author Michael Cloherty O'Connell hopes that readers will follow the clues to find hidden treasure as they learn about American history in two newly released books.

(Paige Impink photo)

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# OPINION

## Upcoming local events

December 12, Tewksbury Indoor Community Market, Tewksbury Senior Center, 4 - 7 p.m. Get your holiday shopping done while supporting local businesses. 29 vendors including many of your summer market favorites. Prizes and giveaways. 175 Chandler St. See you there!

December 14, Festival of Trees, Tewksbury Hospital Chapel, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., 365 East St. Family friendly activities including stories with Mrs. Claus, winter trail walk, tree raffle, and more. Free. [tewksburytogether.org](http://tewksburytogether.org) for more details.

December 15, Buddy Basketball. 1 p.m., Wynn Middle School. Registration is required for both volunteers and athletes [tewksburyboysbasketball.org](http://tewksburyboysbasketball.org). If you are 18 and above and plan on volunteering at Buddy Basketball, TBBL requires a CORI form and photo of your driver's license to [clerk@tewksburyboysbasketball.org](mailto:clerk@tewksburyboysbasketball.org).

December 21, Winter Solstice Celebration, Berry Pond at Harold Parker State Forest, 690 Middleton Road, North Andover. 3 - 5 p.m. Free but parking fees may apply. Hot cocoa for all. Reasonable accommodations upon advance request. Wear hats and dress warmly. Solstice exactly at 4:14 p.m., short hike. For more information, please call 617-828-1728, or visit our website: [www.mass.gov/locations/harold-parker-state-forest](http://www.mass.gov/locations/harold-parker-state-forest).

December 22, Strongwater Farm's Winter Wonderland Event, 3 - 7 p.m., 500 Livingston St. Join us at Strongwater Farm for an evening of family festivities — hot chocolate bar, photos with Santa, arts and crafts, music, and more! Dress warm — Ugly Christmas sweaters are highly encouraged! Close-toed shoes required. \$30 per family (two or more), and \$25 per person. Pay at the door, or via the QR code (enter "SWF WWL" as note). Please check in at the lower barn for entry and additional tickets for various activities, such as a hay ride, that will be for sale.

The Friends of the Tewksbury Public library Countdown to Christmas Mystery Gift Card Raffle. A \$5 raffle ticket for the chance to win a \$10 or greater gift card every day before Christmas, Dec. 1 - Dec. 24. Purchase at least two raffle tickets and you will have the chance to win the bonus raffle of a \$100 gift card to Cafe Sicilia. Raffle tickets may be bought online at the Friends website or on select days at Tewksbury Public Library.

Thanksgiving to New Year's — Tewksbury Open Space Winter Tree Walk-visit Tewksbury Open Space lands at Pinnacle, Rogers, and Chandler Well Fields to discover decorations by local nonprofits. Trail maps at [tewksbury-ma.gov/open-space](http://tewksbury-ma.gov/open-space) and recreation plan committee

January 11, 2nd annual Project Period Care Drive to collect period care products for Middlesex Community College and the UMass Lowell Strive Pantry. 10 a.m. to noon. Drop-off location is MCC, 33 Kearney Square. The drive is collecting pads and tampons. For more information, contact Rep. Vanna Howard's office at 617-722-2060, ext. 7 or email [vanna.howard@mahouse.gov](mailto:vanna.howard@mahouse.gov).

January 23, Tewksbury Community Blood Drive, Tewksbury/Wilmington Elks, 2 - 7 p.m. Visit Red CrossBlood.org and search Tewksbury to schedule a time slot or call 1-800-RED-CROSS.

February 7, Tewksbury Lions Club Music Bingo, 6:30 p.m., 777 South St., \$250 per table of ten. Bring your own snacks. Cash bar. Raffles. Reserve online at [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com).

Thursdays, Saturdays, and the first Sunday of the month, Public Health Museum, 365 East St., Open for indoor and campus tours. Check website for times. [PublicHealthMuseum.org](http://PublicHealthMuseum.org)

Alternative House Wish-list for the Holidays — There's No Excuse for Abuse — Notebooks, laundry items, arts and crafts supplies, new pillows, diapers and wipes, twin sheets, twin comforters.

Alternative-house.org

## Lazarus House Ministries welcomes Gail Favreau as new director of development

LAWRENCE — Gail Favreau comes to Lazarus House with more than 16 years of non-profit development experience, including extensive knowledge in major and individual giving, securing corporate partnerships, events, board relations, strategy execution and stewardship. She feels deeply connected to the Lazarus House Ministries' mission and is looking forward to being in the position to make a stronger difference in people's lives in the Merrimack Valley.

"I am truly excited and blessed to welcome Gail Favreau as our new Director of Development at Lazarus House Ministries. Gail's expertise and passion for our mission will undoubtedly help us achieve even greater impact within our community and Guests."

In her new position as Director of Development at Lazarus House Ministries, Gail will serve on the executive leadership team and report to Executive Director Carmen H. Vega. She will be responsible for creating and executing strategies to lead a team in engaging external stakeholders to increase philanthropic support for Lazarus House Ministries' programs and community services.

Most recently, Gail served as Associate Vice President of Development, at the American Heart Association. In this role, she developed a comprehensive fundraising plan to secure and grow new commitments, successfully managed a portfolio of over 200 prospects including major and corporate donors, as well as board members, raising over a million dollars for the Heart Walk.

Gail spent eight years combined at the Greater Boston Food Bank and the Pine Street Inn, increasing donor engagement, funding program opportunities and leading large-scale events with a focus of increasing awareness.

Lazarus House Ministries is a private non-profit organization in Lawrence that helps people dealing with the various challenges of poverty. The organization offers food, shelter, clothing, community resources, and advocacy services to those in need. These services are completed with an open and non-judgmental heart and each person helped is treated as a guest, served with dignity and respect.

For more information, please visit [lazarushouse.org](http://lazarushouse.org)



▲ GAIL FAVREAU

(Courtesy photo)



### Ipswich River Community Chorus holiday concert scheduled for Dec. 14th, 15th

The Ipswich River Community Chorus rehearses for its holiday concert, "An Americana Holiday," taking place this coming Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are available at [ipswichrivercommunitychorus.org](http://ipswichrivercommunitychorus.org). The shows are Saturday, Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 15 at 4 p.m. at Union Congregational Church in North Reading. (Paige Impink photo)

## Tewksbury Together to hold first 'Winterfest'

and prepared for what can only be described as a traditional winter wonderland. Hospital staff have volunteered to turn the chapel into a little piece of the North Pole, ensuring happy Yuletide memories for attendees of all ages!

"The enthusiasm of both the hospital administration and staff have helped us make this the event what we hoped it would be, especially in our initial year," said Jomarie Buckley, founder and President of Tewksbury Together. "It is important to us that people realize the value that Tewksbury Hospital and its campus brings to our community; from beautiful trail systems, to the Tewksbury Public Library, to events like 'Win-

terfest.'

Tewksbury Together's "Winterfest" is this up-

coming Saturday, Dec. 14,

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Activities

include: a Festival of

Trees raffle, a winter trail

walk hosted by Tewks-

bury's Open Space and

Recreation Plan Committee, storytime with Mrs. Claus hosted by the Public Health Museum, pictures with Santa, a pet food and litter drive, holiday cards for veterans, various reindeer games, and more!

Be sure to visit [tewksburytogether.org](http://tewksburytogether.org) for details.

### Book Stew Review

## 'A Few Words in Defense of Our Country: The Biography of Randy Newman' by Robert Hilburn

By EILEEN MACDOUGALL

Is there a songwriter as sweet and jaundiced as Randy Newman? Or one

## Want your opinion heard?

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Send Letters to the Editor to:

[office@yourtowncrier.com](mailto:office@yourtowncrier.com).

All submissions must be accompanied by full name, address, and daytime contact information for verification purposes.

Letters must be e-mailed by noon on Monday in order for consideration the same week's edition.

Lehrer or as tender as Leonard Cohen?

No, of course — he is a singular American truth-teller and this biography, written with his cooperation, leads us into his sharp mind and his overwhelming insecurities.

Born into a family of musicians, with minimal support from his parents, Randy is inspired by his three uncles, including Alfred Newman, who scored the 20th Century Fox fanfare, but intimidated by them as well (the entire family has been nominated for 90 Academy Awards).

Happily, he grows up with a best friend, Lenny Waronker, who becomes his producer and his

greatest champion. Randy is the father of five children from two marriages, and yet one of his favorite pastimes is sitting alone watching TV, as he did when he was a child.

Artists who have recorded his songs have shown more appreciation for his talent than he himself does; but the true force of his admiration and despair for his country comes out fiercely in his bluesy, deadpan voice.

This book is a deep plunge into Newman's psyche, his songwriting, his two marriages, and, primarily, his startling lack of confidence despite his successes.

## Town Crier

### Tewksbury - Wilmington

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# OBITUARIES

## Elizabeth A. 'Betty' Boucher

Worked as medical secretary at Lahey Clinic

Elizabeth A. "Betty" Boucher, age 74, a long-time resident of Wilmington, passed away on Dec. 6, 2024.

Betty was born on Aug. 12, 1950, in Somerville; she was the cherished daughter of Hazel (Graham) Proto of Wilmington and the late Robert Grady. Betty was raised and educated in Arlington.

Betty worked as a medical secretary at Lahey Clinic in Burlington for more than 34 years.

Betty married Edward "Ed" Boucher on Sept. 18, 1971; they settled in Wilmington where they raised their two daughters, Jennifer and Shana. Betty loved being a mom; she enjoyed cooking and baking for her family, especially for the holidays.

She had an "open door" policy, where everyone was welcome; she was happy to cook for anyone who visited. Betty was a proud nana and looked forward to watching them grow up and being part of their life's accomplishments.

In her spare time, Betty loved to travel. She loved vacationing at their lake



house at Lake Winnipesaukee and loved going to the local hall for a night of bingo and vacations in Aruba with her family and friends. Betty was an avid reader; she looked forward to reading a good novel.

She loved to play games, especially on holidays with all her family.

Betty will be remembered for her love of Barry Manilow; she attended many concerts and was so excited when she had the opportunity to meet him. She was a very caring and giving person; always putting others ahead of herself.

Betty was the beloved wife of Edward Boucher, devoted mother of Jennifer Boucher of Wilmington and Shana Wesley and her husband Thomas of Chelmsford, loving "Nana" of Sam Cedrone and Ella Cedrone, dear sister of Richard Grady of Lowell, Robert Grady and his wife Roberta of Wilmington and the late Paul Grady, aunt of Jason Grady, Adam Grady, Connor Grady, and Aiden Grady, and great-aunt of Samantha Grady.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Betty's name may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or to the MSPCA at Nevins Farm, 400 Broadway, Methuen, MA 01844.

[www.nicholsfuneralhome.com](http://www.nicholsfuneralhome.com)

## Leo A. Hamel

Served in the Army National Guard Corps of Engineers

Leo A. Hamel passed away on Dec. 8, 2024. He was 66 years old.

Leo grew up in Malden.

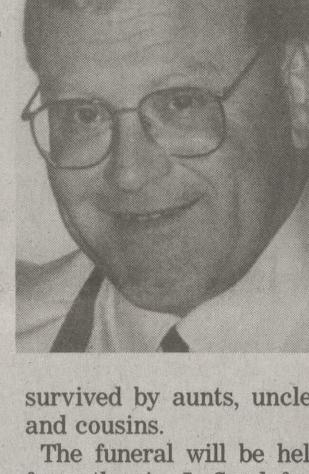
He loved playing hockey in the rink and on the pond as a youth. He graduated from Malden High School, where he enjoyed many fun times with friends and classmates.

After graduation, Leo served in the Army National Guard Corps of Engineers. He started his career in painting and construction, working for himself and eventually founding the LAH Realty Trust, which he ran for 24 years, building many homes in the Wilmington area.

He also worked for several construction companies, most recently as a superintendent for ZVI Construction.

Additionally, Leo was a mortgage loan officer at First Call Mortgage, among other agencies.

Leo got married in 1989 and settled in Wilmington, where he raised his three



children. He loved spending time with family and friends, traveling, Cross Fit, dining out, and the outdoors, particularly the White Mountains, and Salisbury and Nahant Beaches.

A talented craftsman, Leo loved home improvement projects and always had the right tool for the job. He could most often be found working in the yard or in the home. He was happiest fixing and building things.

A beloved father, Leo will always live on in the hearts of his children.

Leo was the beloved father of Alivia Hamel and her partner Brendan Coleman of Stratham, NH, Cameron Hamel of Tewksbury and Jordan Hamel and his partner Madison Gauldin of Tewksbury.

He was the brother of Susan Hamel-Bottari and her husband Derek and Andy Hamel and his wife Maryellen.

Leo was the uncle of Andrew Hamel and the late Jack Hamel. He is also

survived by aunts, uncles and cousins.

The funeral will be held from the A. J. Spadafora Funeral Home, 365 Main St., Malden on Saturday Dec. 14 at 9 a.m. followed by a Mass of Christian Burial celebrating Leo's life in the Immaculate Conception Church, 600 Pleasant St., Malden at 10 a.m. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend. Visiting hours will be held at the Funeral Home on Friday, Dec. 13 from 4 - 8 p.m.

Interment will be in Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden.

## Florence 'Sis' (Blake) Hobbs

Dedicated 50 years to church community

Florence "Sis" (Blake) Hobbs, aged 79, passed away on Dec. 9, 2024, in Wilmington.

Born on Feb. 19, 1945, in Boston, she was a cherished member of the Wilmington community and a devout attendee of the Abundant Life Church.

Florence, affectionately known as Sis, dedicated over 50 years to her church community, embodying the virtues of generosity, love, and patience. She pursued her passion for arts and crafts, often drawing and baking with her grandchildren.

Her early dreams of becoming an art teacher were reflected in her active participation in the preschool Sunday school and her love for crafting.



She is survived by her loving husband, John Hobbs; children John Hobbs (Peggy), Lori MacDonald, Denise Rosenthal (David), and Keith Hobbs (Cheryl Fay); grandchildren Tyler, Rachel (Brendan), Jacob, Courtney, and Peyton; siblings Eddie Blake (Robert), Ronnie Blake (Patti), Lily Miller, Karen Grafton, and Judy Frias (Mario); as well as numerous nieces, nephews, in-laws, and friends.

Florence was predeceased by her parents, Charles and Hazel Blake; brothers Arthur and Perce Blake; Helen Allen; and her son-in-law, John Mac Donald.

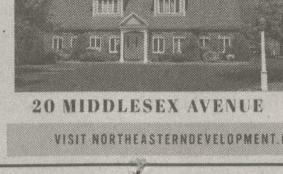
A memorial service will be held on Sunday, Dec. 15, 2024, at 1 p.m. at the same address.

Abundant Life Church, 173 Church St., Wilmington. In lieu of flowers, the family requests individuals to honor Sis' memory through random acts of kindness or donations to the Abundant Life Church at the same address.

[www.visitnortheasterndevelopment.com/rentals](http://www.visitnortheasterndevelopment.com/rentals)

### ALL INCLUSIVE OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE

Large second-floor office space in the heart of Wilmington with easy access to The Commuter Rail and minutes from all major highways. This space would be ideal for a lawyer or a tax professional.



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## Susan Jean 'Sue' (Serrentino) Liston

### Boating was a big part of her life

Susan Jean "Sue" (Serrentino) Liston, age 63, a long-time resident of Wilmington, passed away following a courageous battle with cancer on Dec. 7, 2024.

Sue was born on May 15, 1961, in Winchester; she was the cherished daughter of the late Rosario "Roy" and Jean (Edmester) Serrentino. Sue was raised in Wilmington and graduated from Wilmington High School in 1979.

She earned her associate degree from Middlesex Community College.

Sue married Salvi Liston on St. Patrick's Day 1984. They moved several times, living in Florida, Georgia and Texas. They eventually settled back in Wilmington.

Sue was very proud to be a full-time mom and later she worked at Merrimack College for more than 15 years. Sue's home was always full of warmth and busy with activity. Sue

made friends easily and was loyal to all of them.

Sue loved spending time with her family. She was delighted when she became "Gigi" to Rachel and Trey. She was so happy that she was able to spend time baking cookies with them.

Boating was a big part of her life, and she got great satisfaction spending time out on the ocean and with her many great friends at the Newburyport Yacht Club.

Sue was the beloved wife of William J. "Salvi" Liston on St. Patrick's Day 1984. They moved several times, living in Florida, Georgia and Texas. They eventually settled back in Wilmington.

Family and friends will gather for Visitation at the Nichols Funeral Home, 187 Middlesex Ave., (Rt. 62),



Wilmington on Friday, Dec. 13 from 4 - 7 p.m. A Funeral Service will be held at The Church of the Good Shepherd, 95 Woburn St., Reading, on Saturday, Dec. 14 at 10 a.m. Please go directly to church.

Memorial donations in Sue's name may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. [www.nicholsfuneralhome.com](http://www.nicholsfuneralhome.com)

## Lucille F. (Sciola) Medeiros

### True fan of the Hallmark Channel

Lucille F. (Sciola) Medeiros, fondly known as "Lucy," age 92, of Wilmington, passed away peacefully on Dec. 7, 2024.

Lucy was born on May 27, 1932, in Beverly; she was the cherished daughter of the late Domenic and Florence (Parisella) Sciola. Lucy was raised in Beverly with her three older brothers and graduated from Beverly High School with the Class of 1950.

Lucy married "the love of her life", John A. Medeiros, on Oct. 21, 1962. They lived in Somerville for a short time before settling in Wilmington in 1970, where they raised their loving three children, Linda, Lisa, and John, Jr. Lucy enjoyed her role as a homemaker and took pride in her home and children.

In her younger years, Lucy enjoyed crosswords and always had a book on hand. She enjoyed most music and had quite the collection of 45's from Frank Sinatra to Johnny Mathis and the likes. Later, her CD collection included Carrie Underwood and Josh Groban. Lucy was



a true fan of the Hallmark Channel and looked forward to the Christmas specials. In her later years as a resident of Windsor Place, Lucy could often be found at nightly Bingo.

Lucy was a kind and loving wife and mother. She embraced her role as "Nana" and was so proud of all of her grandchildren. She was a cherished Aunt Lu to many nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

Lucy was a well-loved neighbor on Marcus Road. She will be so missed by all of her family and friends.

Lucy was the beloved wife of the late John A. Medeiros, devoted mother of Linda Medeiros of Arlington, Lisa Carino and her husband George of Wakefield, and John Medeiros, Jr. of Derry, NH, loving "Nana" of G. Matthew Carino, Julia Carino, Justin Carino, Lily Medeiros, and John Medeiros, III, dear sister of the late John Sciola and his late wife Betty, the late Anthony Sciola and his late wife Angela, and the late Joseph Sciola and his wife Ginny of Beverly.

Family and friends will gather at the Nichols Funeral Home, 187 Middlesex Ave., (Rt. 62), Wilmington on Monday, Dec. 16th at 9:30 a.m. immediately followed by a Mass of Christian Burial in St. Thomas of Villanova Church, 126 Middlesex Ave., Wilmington, at 10:30 a.m. Interment to follow in Wildwood Cemetery, Wilmington. Visiting hours will be held at the Funeral Home on Sunday, Dec. 15 from 1 - 4 p.m. [www.nicholsfuneralhome.com](http://www.nicholsfuneralhome.com)



### Holiday Pie Social in Tewksbury

Members of Tewksbury Congregational Church showed off some of the pies available to enjoy as part of the Holiday Pie Social last weekend. The annual event is a Tewksbury tradition and is held in conjunction with the holiday tree lighting on the common. (Paige Impink photo)

## Stephen P. Peterson

Attorney At Law

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**LEGAL NOTICE**  
TOWN OF WILMINGTON  
MASSACHUSETTS

**REQUEST FOR  
QUALIFICATIONS**

**CONSTRUCTION MANAGER  
AT RISK SERVICES**  
WILDWOOD ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL PROJECT

Qualified General Contract firms are advised that the Town of Wilmington, the "Owner," is seeking request for qualifications and statements of qualifications to serve as the Construction Manager at Risk during the schematic design phase, design phase, and construction phase of the Wildwood Elementary School Project. Firms interested in providing Public Construction Manager at Risk Services ("CM" or "CM at Risk") for the Wildwood Elementary School Project, ("Project") are invited to submit a Statement of Qualifications ("SOQ") to the Town of Wilmington ("Owner/Awarding Authority"). This CM at Risk services procurement is conducted pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 149A, contained in Chapter 193 of the Acts of 2004. This Request for Qualifications ("RFQ") is the first phase of a

two-phase procurement process as set forth in MGL Chapter 149A. The Town of Wilmington's School Building Committee is prequalifying firms interested in providing public CM at Risk services for the project through this RFQ process. The submitted SOQ's will be evaluated based upon the identified evaluation criteria and the Prequalification Committee will select those respondents it deems qualified. Only those respondents deemed qualified will be invited to submit a Proposal in response to a detailed Request for Proposals ("RFP") which will be issued in the second phase of the procurement process. The Town of Wilmington expects the RFP will be available in December 2025. The project delivery method for construction will be public CM at Risk with a Guaranteed Maximum Price ("GMP") under M.G.L. Chapter 149A. Firms interested in being prequalified must demonstrate that they have prior experience as a CM. In addition, this firm must have constructed schools under M.G.L. ch. 149A of similar cost, complexity, type, and size, including phasing and adjacency to an occupied school.

Sealed responses, clearly labeled "Statement of Qualifications for Construction Manager - Wildwood Elementary School Project" will be received in the office of the Town Manager, Thomas Donahue, Town Hall,

121 Glen Road, MA until 2:00 P.M. on January 9, 2025.

Each proponent shall submit six (6) hard copies, and one (1) electronic copy of the response to this Request for Qualifications (RFQ). Each response shall clearly identify the proponent's name and business address. This RFQ may be obtained electronically by visiting the Town of Wilmington website <http://www.wilmingtonma.gov/purchasing-department> until the scheduled submission date. Late responses will not be accepted.

The Town shall not be responsible for proposals arriving late due to couriers, deliveries to wrong locations, express mailing services etc. or any reason whatsoever. Postmarks will not be considered. Proposals submitted via email or fax will not be considered.

The Town of Wilmington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age or disability in employment for the provision of services. The Town reserves the right to reject any responses or any part thereof in response to this RFQ or take any other action as the Town may deem to be in its best interest.

R. Eric Slagle  
Town Manager

241298 12/12/24

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**COMMONWEALTH OF  
MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT**

**MIDDLESEX, SS.  
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT  
DOCKET NO. MI24E0089PP**

To: Deanna Guglietta (n/k/a Deanna Smith) of Barre, MA, Peter Guglietta of Tewksbury MA and to all other persons interested.

A petition has been presented to said Court by Deanna Guglietta (n/k/a Deanna Smith) representing that they hold as tenant in common in an undivided part or share of certain land lying in Tewksbury, in the County of Middlesex, and briefly described as

135 Jennies Way, Tewksbury, Massachusetts 01876

The land with the buildings thereon, located in Tewksbury, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, being shown as Lot 16 on Jennie's Way, Tewksbury, as shown on a plan of land entitled "Definitive Subdivision Lot Layout Plan, "Jennie's Woods", Tewksbury, Massachusetts, Scale 1" = 100', date: April 25, 1997, Dana

F. Perkins, Inc.", which plan is recorded in Middlesex North District registry of Deeds, Book of Plans 197, Plan 103, to which plan reference is hereby referred to for a more particular description.

Lot 16 contains 23,019 square feet according to said plan.

Subject to Easement to MediaOne of Southern New England and MediaOne of Mass., Inc. recorded in MNDRD Book 10273, Page 15.

Subject to utility easement to New England Telephone and Telegraph Co. recorded in MNDRD Book 10298, Page 29.

Subject to Protective Covenants recorded in MNDRD Book 10273, Page 225.

Included in this conveyance is the right to pass and repass over any and all ways as shown on said plan for all purposes for which such ways are commonly used in the Town of Tewksbury.

For Grantor's title see deed of First Liberty Development Corporation et ux recorded in MNDRD Book 10561, Page 100.

Setting forth that the petitioner

wishes that all said land may be ordered to be sold at a private sale for not less than (\$775,000.00) SEVEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end, that commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any portion of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided, either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute and pay over the net proceeds thereof in such a manner as to make the partition just and equal.

If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance and answer in said Court at Lowell before ten o'clock on the 20th day of December 2024 the return date of this citation.

Witness, Honorable Terri Klug-Cafazzo, First Justice of this Court, this 25th day of October in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Four.

Tara E. DeCristofaro,  
Register of Probate

241165 12/5/12, 19/24

The proposed work under this contract includes but is not limited to furnishing all necessary labor, materials, tools, and equipment to complete storm drainage system pipeline and structure cleaning and closed circuit television inspections, root cutting where necessary, cutting of protruding laterals where necessary, removal, transporting, and disposal of drainage system sediments at the Tewksbury Department of Public Works, maintaining a safe work site, and ordering police details where necessary. The work is anticipated to begin in February 2025 and must be completed by June 30, 2025. The Owner does not guarantee a specific quantity to be purchased, or items to be used. Final quantities will be determined by the Engineer based on bid pricing received and available funding. The Owner and the successful bidder may agree upon a renewal option, by mutual consent, to extend the contract for up to two (2) additional fiscal years based on the terms stated in the Agreement.

Each Bid shall be submitted in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders and shall be accompanied by a Bid Security in form of a certified check, cashier's check or security bond in the amount of 5 percent of the Bid.

Bidders may not withdraw their Bids for a period of 45 days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays, after the actual date of the opening of the Bids. Complete instructions for filing Bids are included in the Instructions to Bidders.

Minimum Wage Rates as determined by the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development under the provision of the M.G.L. c.149, §26 to 27D, as amended, apply to this project. It is the responsibility of the Contractor, before Bid Opening to request, if necessary, any additional information on Minimum Wage Rates for those trades' people who may be employed for the proposed work under this Contract.

The Bidding and Award of this Contract will be pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30B. The Owner reserves the right, in its absolute and sole discretion, to waive any informality in or to reject any or all Bids if deemed to be in its best interest.

JOHN CURRAN  
TOWN MANAGER

TEWKSBURY,  
MASSACHUSETTS

241299 12/12/24

The application may be examined on the Zoning Board of Appeals webpage of the Town of Tewksbury's website at [www.tekwksbury-ma.gov](http://www.tekwksbury-ma.gov). Should other accommodations be necessary to view the application, please call the Community Development Office at 978-640-4370. Legal Notice can also be viewed on [www.masspublicnotices.org](http://www.masspublicnotices.org)

## DA Marian Ryan convenes Ransomware Response Conference

LEXINGTON — Dis-

trict Attorney Marian Ryan convened a Ransomware Response Conference last week in Lexington for over 100 industry leaders at hospitals, schools, municipalities and businesses. Recognizing that, in the past several years, local and national organizations have experienced Ransomware attacks, the conference provided training on best practices to mitigate losses, to address vulnerabilities, restore operations and strengthen security to prevent similar attacks in the future.

The conference featured presentations from Attorney Stephanie Siegmann, a partner at Hinckley Allen, the Co-Chair of Cybersecurity, Privacy & Data Protection Practice and the former National Security Chief at the U.S. Attorney's Office in the District of Massachusetts; Assistant United States Attorney Seth Kos-

to, Chief of the Securities,

Financial, and Cyber Fraud Unit at the U.S. Attorney's Office in the District of Massachusetts; FBI, Boston Supervisory Special Agent Doug Domin and Boston College Law School Professor Kevin Powers.

"In Middlesex County we have had multiple businesses and municipalities impacted by cyberattacks and data breaches. These incidents erode our sense of safety and security and can cost victims millions to get their systems back up and running. What is increasingly frightening for those of us tasked with preserving public safety is that these attacks are not just targeting large businesses — the impacts are being felt at a very personal level, interfering with day-to-day tasks," said District Attorney Ryan. "This training brought together leaders in the field to educate our partners and to help them create workable, accessible plans to address an attack if one occurs."

Siegmann's presentation highlighted the steps that could prevent cyber-attacks and reduce liabilities from a data breach. She emphasized that developing an Incident Response Plan and Incident Response Team are critical in responding to cybersecurity incidents. Additionally, the participants learned from SSA Domin and AUSA Kosto how law enforcement agencies respond collaboratively to reports of cyberattacks and what to expect from the investigation in the immediate aftermath of an attack.

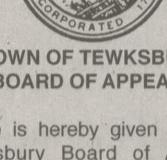
• Do NOT delete anything that has been impacted by the breach or shut down any affected system — this can destroy critical evidence necessary to conduct a forensic investigation to determine the scope of the breach, how your network was accessed, what data was exfiltrated (if any) and identify the cyber actors that were involved in the attack.

• Work with legal counsel, determine your organization's legal and contractual obligations and make any necessary data breach disclosures.

Find more information on responding to ransomware here: [www.cisa.gov/stopransomware](http://www.cisa.gov/stopransomware)

Find Stephanie Siegmann's and Kevin Powers' PowerPoint presentations here: <https://www.middlesexda.com/public-information/events/pages/ransomware-response-conference>.

**LEGAL NOTICE**



**TOWN OF TEWKSBURY  
BOARD OF APPEALS**

Notice is hereby given that the Tewksbury Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on December 19, 2024 at 6:30 P.M. in the Tewksbury Town Hall, 1009 Main Street, Tewksbury, MA 01876 on an application filed by Asphalt Services Inc. for variances under Section 5.3.4 & 5.3.4.A, of the Tewksbury Zoning Bylaw, for minimum side and rear setbacks and setbacks from an R40 district in order to construct a 6,875 sq ft 3-bay garage with offices as shown on plans filed with this Board.

Said property is located at 911 East Street Assessor's Map 102, Lot 52 zoned Industrial 1.

The application may be examined on the Zoning Board of Appeals webpage of the Town of Tewksbury's website at [www.tekwksbury-ma.gov](http://www.tekwksbury-ma.gov). Should other accommodations be necessary to view the application, please call the Community Development Office at 978-640-4370. Legal Notice can also be viewed on [www.masspublicnotices.org](http://www.masspublicnotices.org)

Nancy Rego, Chair

241248 12/5/12, 19/24

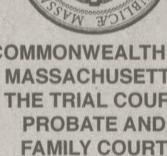
**LEGAL NOTICES ARCHIVE**

All published legal notices are posted to the Massachusetts Public Notices website. To search the archive of previously published legal notices go to:

[www.homenewshere.com](http://www.homenewshere.com) OR

[masspublicnotices.org/Search.aspx](http://masspublicnotices.org/Search.aspx)

**LEGAL NOTICE**



**COMMONWEALTH OF  
MASSACHUSETTS**

**THE TRIAL COURT**

**PROBATE AND**

**FAMILY COURT**

Middlesex Probate and Family Court  
10-U Commerce Way  
Woburn, MA 01801

**CITATION GIVING NOTICE  
OF PETITION FOR REMOVAL  
OF A GUARDIAN OF AN  
INCAPACITATED PERSON**

Docket No. MI13P0408GD

**In the Interests of:**

Joseph Martin

Of: TEWKSBURY, MA

RESPONDENT

Incapacitated Person/

Protected Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Department of Mental Health of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court: Remove the Guardian of the Respondent

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the Guardian and/or Conservator should be allowed to resign; or should be removed for good cause; or that the Guardianship and/or Conservatorship is no longer necessary and therefore should be terminated. The original petition is on file with the court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 12/02/2024.

This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written

appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Any-one may make this request on behalf of the above-named person.

If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

**WITNESS**, Hon. Terri L. Klug Cafazzo, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 22, 2024

Tara E. DeCristofaro,  
Register of Probate

241295 12/12/24

**LEGAL NOTICE**



**COMMONWEALTH OF  
MASSACHUSETTS**

**THE TRIAL COURT**

**PROBATE AND**

**FAMILY COURT**

Suffolk Probate and Family Court

24 New Chardon Street

Boston, MA 02114

**CITATION GIVING NOTICE  
OF PETITION FOR REMOVAL  
OF A GUARDIAN OF AN  
INCAPACITATED PERSON**

Docket No. SU23P2497GD

**In the Interests of:**

Holly Leach

Of: TEWKSBURY, MA

RESPONDENT

Incapacitated Person/

Protected Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Department of Mental Health of Westborough, MA in the above captioned

# Operation Santa Paws

Our residents experience so much joy from animals. We want to give back to them during the holiday season! New England Life Enrichment Team is doing their third annual Operation Santa Paws Fundraiser!

DECEMBER 1-22

## ACCEPTABLE SUPPLIES FOR DONATION:

- Unopened pet food
- Pet toys
- Blankets & towels
- Pet beds
- Food bowls
- Cleaning products
- Collars & leashes
- Grooming products



## Willow Brook Rehab supports animal shelters with 'Operation Santa Paws'

WILMINGTON — Willow Brook Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center in Wilmington, where residents often benefit from animal-assisted therapy visits, has launched "Operation Santa Paws" to collect pet supplies and donate them to the Readying Animal Clinic.

Through Dec. 22, the

skilled nursing facility at 90 West St. welcomes donated items such as blankets and towels, dog and cat beds, unopened pet food/treats, pet toys, grooming products, collars and leashes, and food/water bowls.

Therapy animals play a vital role in long-term care residents' lives, par-

ticularly those living with dementia and Alzheimer's. Benefits of animal therapy for seniors include emotional uplift, increased self-esteem, improved social skills, and reduced risk of depression and anxiety.

For more information, visit [www.WillowBrookRehabhc.com](http://www.WillowBrookRehabhc.com).

## Town must pay additional money for taking of property

### MEETING FROM PAGE 1

pay bills for prior fiscal years.

Eaton established that this vote required 9/10 approval of the total quantum of residents present in the meeting to pass. The article was voted unanimously in favor by a voice vote.

Article five proposed an amendment to the vote taken under Article 22 of the 2020 annual Town Meeting where residents approved the taking of 64 Wildwood St. by eminent domain. The motion included the appropriation of an additional \$30,000 in payment for the property to the former owners, which if added to the original \$450,000 appropriated would make the total the town pays \$980,000.

Slagle provided that it's common that in taking a property by eminent domain, the two sides disagree on the value of the property. He said that the town originally appraised the property as a single house lot, but the owner presented that it could be broken up into three lots. They had

reached an agreement with the party which would please them and include relocation costs.

Town Counsel Mark Reich added that this settlement was reached to avoid going into litigation, and if the town doesn't approve this amount they likely would go into litigation.

Resident Kevin MacDonald shared a concern about additional lawsuits from the former property owner for harassment, but Reich stated that this comment was not related to this warrant article. MacDonald also asked if this would prevent any potential lawsuit, and Eaton said that this question was out of scope.

Susan Stewart suggested that there may be a better way for the town to spend this money.

Reich went on to explain that the town is required to pay fair market value of the property taken by eminent domain. The town already paid \$450,000 and taken the property.

"The money previously approved was spent," he

said. "The outcome of this [being voted down] doesn't result in the property being returned [to the former owner]."

He suggested that if this article were to fail, the town would be sued for that dollar amount and also suffer legal costs and other related expenses.

"I imagine in court [the owner] would seek a higher amount; this is a negotiated amount," he continued.

Slagle mentioned that the town had been interested in this property for a while and waited for the former owner to pass away before pursuing it. They were now dealing with the former owner's heirs. He stated that the town already begun using this property as part of the Wildwood Cemetery and there were individuals buried there.

Marianne Gallozzo made a motion to move the question and end the debate on this article, which was approved.

The vote on the article itself passed with 400 votes in favor and two votes against.

## Town Meeting rejects MBTA zoning, could face loss of grant money

### ZONING FROM PAGE 1

the housing supply. The zone proposed had to account for a potential 1,248 units according to the state's spreadsheet, which she clarified is not a realistic number because it doesn't account for things like sewer or wetlands.

She said that the Planning Board put aside their feelings about the actions of the state and made the best zoning proposal that they could by focusing on areas with existing multi-family housing and commercial areas. They avoided the flood plain district and the groundwater protection district which require special approval.

They also did an economic feasibility study to prove that the market supported a 15 percent affordability requirement.

The proposed zone included areas on West Street, Burlington Avenue, Deming Way, and Main Street. The area on West Street included 100-104 which was approved for a 40B development, a single-family home at 108, 114, and Regency Place at 121 West St.

The Burlington Avenue area included the Metro apartments with 108 existing units. The Deming Way area included the Housing Authority's parcel of 69 units.

On Main Street, the zone included only one side of the street between the corner of Burlington Avenue and the Hyundai Dealership. Each of these areas would be limited to two to three stories, with three stories allowed only on Main Street with one floor of commercial space; 20-foot setbacks from the property lines; and 1.25-2 parking spaces per unit.

Gingrich said that she expected most of these buildings to stay the same, especially the existing units at 100-104 West St., Metro, and Regency Place, and the spreadsheet sug-

gested they could see under 200 units between 108 West St. and Main Street up to Burlington Avenue.

"Just because you can do the use doesn't mean it will be an immediate change or anytime in the near future," she continued.

She described that 111 communities adopted the zoning district, and those who didn't would be likely to lose state grant funding from grants like Mass Works and Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness.

Residents who rose in opposition cited reasons such as increased tax prices and traffic. One resident stated that they didn't want to see Main Street developed like a downtown, and they would be fine using town money instead of the grant money that the town would lose from noncompliance.

Several residents called the state's efforts "extortion" and "bullying."

Another resident said, "Just because we say no today doesn't mean we're opposed to building; this is not the way to do it."

Rob Fusalo referenced additional units announced in towns who had approved the multi-family zoning district such as 536 units in Westford and 1,000 units in Lexington. Michael McCoy said that this wasn't progress but an "invasion."

Gary DePalma suggested that they work with the state instead for better guidelines. Even those who disliked the article agreed with those in support of the article that its impacts were minimal.

Residents who supported the article agreed with those in opposition that the "one size fits all" approach wasn't ideal. They said that it was fine to disagree with the way that the guideline came about, but they urged others to consider a different approach.

Steven Turner said, "if we choose to shake our

fist, we're going to pay for it."

One resident said that while the guideline didn't take the town's nuances into account, the proposed zoning district would.

Barb Beaudoin suggested that passive resistance was another approach that the town could take on the guideline, where the district they create doesn't have a concerning impact but works for the town.

"I do think that the plan put together effectively neutralizes most of the potential impact," said one resident, who also suggested that keeping the millions of dollars in grant funds from the state would be worth allowing 200 units at most.

Warren Stevenson said that he wanted to be part of a community who would make it possible for the next generation to be able to afford to live here.

"The more housing supply can lower the cost," he said. "The legislature gave power to the towns to decide where the zoning is."

A few other residents viewed the legislature in a similar light. Susan Stewart said that this would enable the town to take some control in the process and decide about where the town changes, and in doing so the state would continue to give the town grant money.

Emma Battaglia said, "Our ability to regulate is given to us by the state, and the state can take it away."

She also described a healthy housing economy with more supply to bring down prices and make space for people to move in and move out.

Another resident said that they didn't think this zone was perfect, but they were in favor of creating a way forward with strategy for new growth.

The final vote for the article failed with 154 in favor and 288 against.

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## A forest of Christmas delights at Festival of Trees

The Wilmington Festival of Trees was held over the weekend at Villanova Hall, there were many different trees there and many happy winners.

(Joe Brown photo)

## Keep bags secure or out of sight while shopping

**SAFETY FROM PAGE 1**

secure any valuables in front or inside coat pockets.

Avoid taking your cash out until needed at time of payment. Consider doing holiday shopping on a credit or debit card to avoid carrying large sums of cash.

The WPD warns that many thieves often work in pairs to distract shoppers while they attempt to take your shopping bags, handbag or wallet.

To avoid your purchases being targets for thieves, slip more expensive purchases that are in identifying packages or bags into less conspicuous or unmarked bags from your less expensive purchases.

If stopping in the food court for a bite to eat,

secure bags under your table or someplace close to your body.

The Tewksbury Police Department has been encouraging everyone to practice the 9 p.m. routine for the past several years. Removing all packages and valuables from your car and locking your vehicle every night by 9 p.m.

Shopping online can also be overwhelming at this time of year, so it is recommended to monitor your account regularly to review credit card activity.

Try using a designated credit card throughout the holiday shopping season. This will make it easier to track purchases, and in case of any problems or fraudulent activity, you will not have mul-

tiple credit cards that have been compromised.

Package theft has been an ongoing problem, particularly during the holiday season, so it is recommended to arrange for a safe location for all deliveries, and monitor online deliveries regularly.

Avoid letting packages sit out in the open too long. If you are out for the day, try to arrange for a neighbor or family member to retrieve any deliveries.

For personal security throughout the year, whether purchasing in person or online, it is advised to never give out personal information to unknown parties. This information includes phone numbers, addresses, social security numbers and bank and credit card information.

## No human transmission of Bird Flu has been discovered

**BIRD FROM PAGE 1**

to a Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources statement, testing of all licensed dairy farm in the state has found no evidence of the HPAI H5N1 virus.

In conjunction with the Massachusetts department of public health, the state's 95 dairy herds came up 100 percent negative.

MDAR commissioner Ashley Randle said in a statement, "Massachusetts dairy farmers follow stringent safety protocols and take great pride in producing the highest-quality products."

The decision to test all herds in August was enacted by the Healey-Driscoll Administration in an effort to ensure the safety of Massachusetts' food supply. While not all animals have symptoms,

those that do, exhibit lethargy and show reduced milk production for a few weeks.

There have also been several cases of dairy farm workers who have contracted the virus and experienced flu-like symptoms from coming into contact with unpasteurized milk. Pasteurization kills the virus and renders it safe for human consumption.

The testing program was conducted in collaboration with MDAR and DPH. MDAR inspectors visited dairies in August to collect samples of milk from their bulk tanks. DPH worked with the Broad Institute at MIT and Harvard to test the samples at no cost to the farmers.

"The safety of our food supply goes hand-in-hand with the health and safety

of residents of the Commonwealth," said DPH Commissioner Robbie Goldstein, MD, PhD. "We must remain vigilant and continue monitoring farms across the state to protect animal and public health. This is a great example of how collaboration across government and with communities can result in better health and maintain the integrity of the local dairy industry."

Cautions against consumption of raw milk still stand. Pasteurization uses heat to kill harmful bacteria that can be present in raw milk. No evidence to date of the Avian Influenza spreading through raw milk has been recorded; however, officials do still recommend against the consumption of raw milk despite loyal followers who tout raw milk's health benefits.



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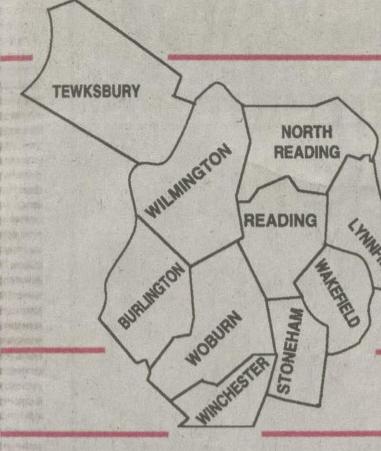
## Movie Review:

'Moana 2'

Page B2



MIDDLESEX EAST appearing in Daily Times - Chronicle (Reading, Woburn, Winchester, Burlington, Wakefield, Lynnfield Village, No. Transcript, Wilmington & Tewksbury Town Crier, Stoneham Independent)



## Recipe:

### Seven-Layer Holiday Pasta Salad

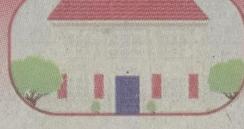
Page B2



Middlesex East  
A weekly regional section reaching 10 communities

## Real Estate Transfers

Page B3



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# Tobacco Free Massachusetts



By RYAN LAROCHE

Almost a dozen communities in Massachusetts have begun a phase-out system for tobacco and nicotine products. These include local communities like Winchester, Reading, Stoneham, Wakefield, Melrose, and Malden. People born after the year 2004 can no longer purchase any products containing tobacco or nicotine (and all tobacco products contain nicotine, according to the Food and Drug Administration).

This means, in those communities, residents who already turned 21 can continue to purchase tobacco and nicotine products, but anyone who has yet to cannot.

In Winchester, the Board of Health held a public hearing back in May of this year where nine speakers gave testimony in favor of what is known as the "Nicotine Free Generation" policy. The Board of Health received both oral and written testimony in favor of this policy to phase out the use of tobacco and nicotine products.

These products are linked to numerous negative health consequences, including lung and cardiovascular disease. Research also indicates that the majority of current tobacco product users started using these products when they were teenagers or young adults.

In Reading, the Board of Health also adopted the "Nicotine Free Generation" policy. The sales ban will apply to not only traditional tobacco products, but also e-cigarettes, vaping pens and smokeless nicotine pouches that are marked as alternatives to snuff and chewing tobacco.

Reading's decision followed the decision of neighboring towns Wakefield and Stoneham earlier in the spring. It did not come easy, as Board of Health Chair Richard Lopez said he wrestled with the decision after hearing local residents describe the ban as an attack on personal freedoms.

However, Lopez, knowing the addictive nature and disastrous long-term health effects of tobacco use, felt he couldn't

kill an initiative that might save lives. He also noted how opponents of the "Nicotine Free Generation" policy spoke out against underage tobacco use and he believes this initiative would ensure young teenagers lose access to such products through "social contacts" who just gained the right to legally purchase them.

There was one lone dissenter in the Board of Health vote who worried that banning such sales would drive sales away from Reading businesses and into other communities or towards the online market. That may soon become a moot point, as three lawmakers on Beacon Hill plan to file legislation next year that would basically take the model already in place in Reading, Winchester, and elsewhere and make it state law.

Senator Jason Lewis, who represents most of the communities that already passed these regulations (Wakefield, Reading, Stoneham, Winchester, Melrose, and Malden), along with Representatives Kate Lipper-Garabedian and Tommy Vitolo, announced that they will be filing a new bill in the 2025-26 legislative session to generationaly phase out the legal sale of all nicotine and tobacco products in Massachusetts. This would replace the current age-based eligibility system with a requirement to be born before a specific date.

According to a release, the three legislators note how nicotine and tobacco products are highly addictive and the use of these products increases the risk of lung cancer, heart disease, stroke, and other illnesses. Hundreds of thousands of Americans die from smoking-attributable causes each year, and smoking continues to be the leading cause of preventable disease and death in the United States.

In a phone conversation last week, Sen. Lewis said his legislation would work the same way as it does in all the communities he represents, but just statewide. Anyone 21 or over on the date the legislation takes effect (assuming it passes the House and Senate and is signed into law by

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Governor Maura Healey) would be allowed to purchase tobacco and nicotine products. All others would not.

He noted how this all began with Brookline several years ago. They passed regulations to phase out the sale of tobacco and nicotine products. The measure was challenged and made its way to the state's supreme court which upheld the town's decision. This paved the way for Reading, Stoneham, Wakefield and several other communities to jump on board.

This makes Massachusetts the first state in the nation where communities banned the sale of tobacco and nicotine products to anyone who turns 21 on a specific date as opposed to banning the sale of those products only to those under the age of 21.

The senator said more communities are considering adopting these regulations, and he encourages them to do so and not wait for any statewide mandate.

"I applaud these local advocates," he said about people pushing to phase out nicotine and tobacco products, adding how communities have already done a lot to prevent tobacco use by banning flavored tobacco.

• TOBACCO TO B2

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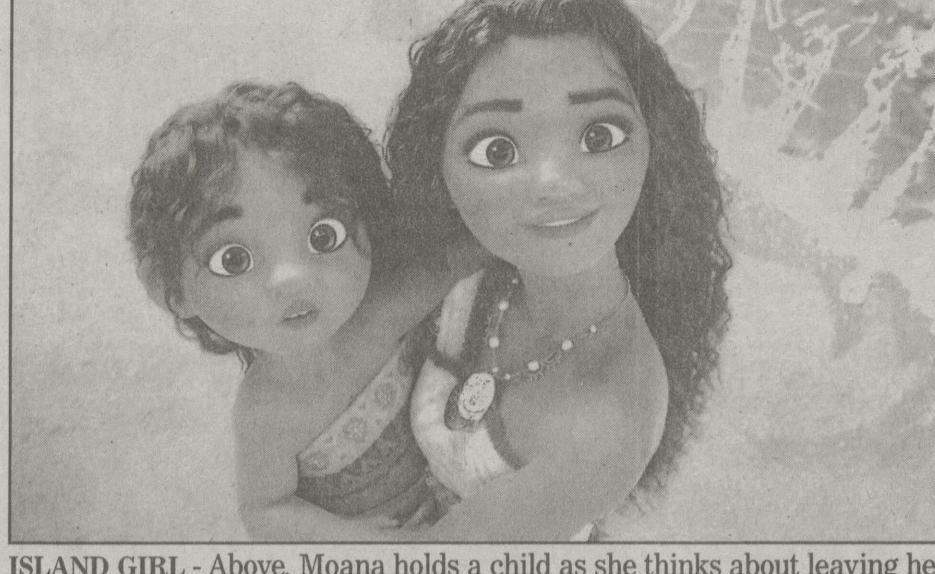
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## Movie Reviews & Box Office News

Visually dazzling, 'Moana 2' is more dull than shiny



**ISLAND GIRL** - Above, Moana holds a child as she thinks about leaving her village in search of a mythical island that holds the key to saving her home. (Disney/AP Photo)

By JAKE COYLE  
AP Film Writer

The warm Polynesian spirit and open-sea sense of adventure is back in "Moana 2," but little of the original's humor or catchy songs finds its way into this heartfelt but lackluster sequel set three years after the original.

"Moana 2," which opens in theaters Wednesday, was originally put into development as a streaming series before it was rerouted to the big screen. Curiously, though, it's not scale or spectacle lacking here. Directors David Derrick Jr., Jason Hand and Dana Ledoux Miller have made an often dazzlingly animated film that is, visually, a step up from 2016's "Moana."

But in a story that brings in a literal boatload of new characters, it's hard to shake the feeling that "Moana 2" got caught in the crosswinds — too blown between shifting studio imperatives to really find its own way.

That's a shame because the original "Moana" is about the lightest, most joy-

ful animated movie Disney has made in a decade — with the possible exception of "Encanto," which likewise bounced to the buoyant rhythms of songs by Lin-Manuel Miranda. (Miranda is crucially absent in "Moana 2," though "Hamilton" director Thomas Kail is currently developing a live-action "Moana.")

Photorealistic remakes have been the more dominant providence of the Magic Kingdom in recent years, a trend that's made more whimsical, imagination-filled animations like "Moana" all the more exceptional. Here was a movie that somehow balanced Pacific Island cultural authenticity with the cartoony delights of a demigod turned accidental shark and Je-

beyond her home island. She is by now a mythic figure, herself, to her people, idolized by youngsters for her courage and for being "super-besties" with the demigod Maui (Dwayne Johnson, also back).

When Moana turns up an artifact with evidence of a two-peaked island, Motufetu, fabled as the once binding center of their ancestors, she sets out to find the cursed island and reunite the disparate people of Oceania. This time, though, Moana is sailing with a more crowded boat.

Some of the old sidekicks — the rooster Heihei (with noises courtesy of Alan Tudyk) and the pig Pua — are back. But Moana decides she needs human help this time, and brings along a crew featuring the uber Maui fan Moni (Hualalai Chung), the engineer Loto (Rose Mateo) and the curmudgeonly older farmer Kele (David Fane).

Each of these characters has one generic note to play, and while you could see the need to add in more personalities for a series (Moana also now has a cute little sister, voiced by Khaleesi Lambert-Tsuda), they are effectively dead weight in "Moana 2."

### • TOBACCO FROM B-1

Sen. Lewis called tobacco and nicotine products the leading cause of preventable illness and premature death, pointing to the "tons of evidence" of health harms including lung cancer, heart disease and stroke. He added people spend \$300B each year on the products themselves and the related health care costs.

The senator, the former chair of the public health committee, said he and his colleagues worked on this legislation for many years.

Like Reading, it would also include non-traditional nicotine and tobacco products like e-cigarettes.

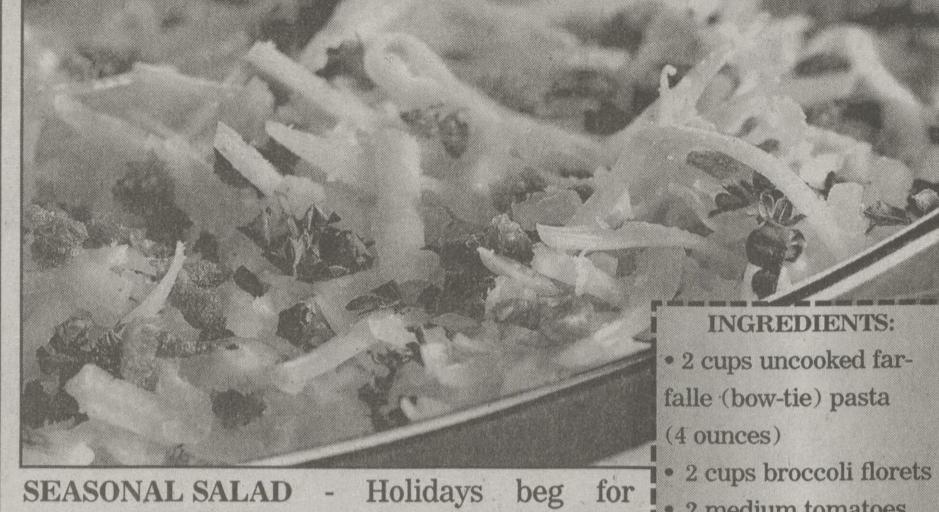
Also, like in Reading (and other communities), there's been and will be pushback to the proposed measure. Sen. Lewis said he expects the legislation to receive opposition, especially from the tobacco industry, as these regulations would become a threat to their product.

Of course, there will also be concerns raised by retailers who sell those products in the state. A phased-out approach means eventually no one will ever purchase tobacco or nicotine products again. Until then, retailers can still sell them to people who turned 21 after the date the legislation goes into effect.

Another issue involves the state already allowing for the sale of alcohol and marijuana, plus the legalization of gambling that took place several years ago. While Sen. Lewis said he believes public health concerns exist in those areas, no legislation has been proposed to phase them out.

As for the "Nicotine Free Generation" policy, the senator pointed to all the local

## HomeNewsHere RECIPE



**SEASONAL SALAD** - Holidays beg for do-ahead food prep. Here's a colorful salad created with precious time in mind.

### STEPS

- Cook and drain pasta as directed on package. Place broccoli in boiling water. Cover and cook 1 minute; drain. Immediately rinse with cold water; drain.

- While pasta is cooking, layer tomatoes, broccoli, bell pepper and onion in 2-quart glass serving bowl.

- In medium bowl, mix mayonnaise, yogurt, sugar and curry powder. Stir in pasta. Layer pasta evenly over onion in serving bowl.

- Sprinkle with cheese. Top with bacon bits and parsley. Cover and refrigerate at least 8 hours before serving but no longer than 24 hours.

### EXPERT TIPS

- Use stars-shaped or tree-shaped pasta, rotini or any medium shell pasta.

- Cooking the broccoli quickly in boiling water softens it slightly and brings out the bright green color. Pat dry with a paper towel so it maintains its crispness.

- Use stars-shaped or tree-shaped pasta, rotini or any medium shell pasta.

- Cooking the broccoli quickly in boiling water softens it slightly and brings out the bright green color. Pat dry with a paper towel so it maintains its crispness.

some recent Disney antagonists and gets probably the best song ("Get Lost") in a movie that mightily misses Miranda's touch. (The songs are by Abigail Barlow and Emily Bear.)

That scene and the climactic one, with a sea of tornadoes spinning across stormy waters, are vividly drawn — enough, surely, to delight younger moviegoers.

Coming fast on the heels of "Wicked," one of the most salient selling points of "Moana 2" may be its comparatively nimble running time. At 100 minutes, it's a full hour shorter than "Wicked."

Ironically, "Moana 2" — beefed up from a would-be

## SEVEN-LAYER HOLIDAY PASTA SALAD

### INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cups uncooked farfalle (bow-tie) pasta (4 ounces)
- 2 cups broccoli florets
- 2 medium tomatoes, chopped (1 1/2 cups)
- 1 medium yellow bell pepper, chopped (1 cup)
- 1/3 cup diced red onion
- 1 cup mayonnaise or salad dressing
- 1/2 cup plain yogurt
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon curry powder
- 1 1/2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese (6 ounces)
- 1 tablespoon bacon flavor bits or chips
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh parsley

series — has brevity in its favor. But the hopes for "Moana 2" should go beyond mere placeholder. Only a few times does the banter between Moana and Maui really remind you of the fun that characterized the original. In one such moment, Moana corrects Maui after he calls her — perhaps confusing Moana for many other Disney protagonists — a princess. His comeback? "Well, a lot of people think you are."

"Moana 2," a Walt Disney Co. release is rated PG by the Motion Picture Association for action/peril. Two stars out of four.

Find more movie reviews at [www.homenewshere.com](http://www.homenewshere.com).

tine and tobacco products, especially on our youth who are targeted by Big Tobacco," said Sen. Lewis. "This bill will save countless lives and create a healthier world for the next generation. I'm so proud that all six communities in my district have already enacted Nicotine-Free Generation policies at the local level, and I will fight to make this a statewide policy."

"Tobacco and nicotine use poses extreme health threats to people of all ages and particularly our youth," said Rep. Kate Lipper-Garabedian. "I was proud to see all three communities in the 32nd Middlesex District pass Nicotine-Free Generation policies. Inspired by my local leaders, I'm glad to partner with Sen. Lewis and Rep. Vitolo to file state-level legislation to end the cycle of nicotine addiction and ensure our young people are protected from harmful products."

"America has allowed nicotine products like cigarettes to be sold for generations. These lawful products are so addictive that it would be unfair to take them away from long-time users. And, because they are so addictive, it would be unfair to allow those currently too young to lawfully purchase these products to do so. This legislation treats everyone fairly. Those who are not old enough now to obtain nicotine products will never be old enough to buy them in Massachusetts. Those who are old enough today will always be old enough," said Rep. Vitolo. "This problem is going to take a generation to solve, and with this legislation we can solve it, one day at a time."

(Materials from Pat Blais were used to compile this report.)

RMLD

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### LEGAL NOTICE ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY

RFP 2024-35

The Reading Municipal Light Department (RMLD) invites proposals\* for the purchase and/or lease of parcels of land within the RMLD service territory (Reading, North Reading, Wilmington and parts of Lynnfield). The parcel must be at least three (3) acres of non-wetlands. This land will be used for the installation of non-carbon energy generation equipment (such as solar PV) and/or energy storage apparatus and/or electric distribution equipment. \*The RMLD will entertain multiple proposals.

The RMLD will receive sealed proposals until 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 230 Ash Street, Reading, Massachusetts, 01867. RFPs will then be opened and unless obviously non-responsive, read aloud publicly in the RMLD Spurr/AV room. Proposals received by the RMLD later than the Submission Deadline will be deemed non-responsive and will be rejected.

This RFP is being issued under Massachusetts General Laws, 30B §16.

The RFP packet may be obtained via email request to Paula O'Leary, Materials Manager, at [poleary@rmld.com](mailto:poleary@rmld.com). For questions or further information, please contact Paula O'Leary at 781-942-6440.

The RMLD may cancel this RFP or reject in whole or in part any and all proposals if the RMLD determines that cancellation or rejection is in the best interest of the RMLD, and, it may select the proposal that it deems to be in the best interest of the RMLD. The RMLD shall have no obligation to purchase and/or lease the property, and any subsequent Purchase and Sales Agreement or Lease will become null and void if, by way of example, and not limitation: the RMLD determines at any time prior to closing that the property and/or the improvements thereon are not suitable, for its specific needs; the information contained in the proposal proves to be inaccurate; it becomes unlawful for either party to execute the Purchase and Sale Agreement or Lease Agreement or consummate the transaction; the RMLD fails to obtain approval and/or funding by an affirmative vote of the RMLD Board of Commissioners; the RMLD finds undisclosed hazardous waste or hazardous materials on the property; the RMLD fails to comply with the provisions of G.L. c. 30B (the Uniform Procurement Act) for acquisition of real property; the building on the property is damaged or destroyed by fire, vandalism or other casualty, or all or part of the property is taken by eminent domain by any entity; or the RMLD fails to obtain the proper zoning and regulatory approvals to the extent necessary to use and operate the property for the RMLD's intended purposes.

All terms of the proposals submitted in response to this RFP, including the price stated therein, must remain firm for six months (180 days) following the proposal opening.

RMLD will make reasonable efforts to review and process proposals promptly. However, RMLD shall not be liable for any delays in acting on a proposal.

## • Real Estate Transfers •

### BURLINGTON

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4 Hillside Ave was sold to Demato, Stephen M and Hanafin, Shannon R by Sullivan Ft and Sullivan, Paul F for \$450,000 on 11/14/24

13 Hilltop Dr was sold to Gauvain, Shawn and Trainor, Salma by Page, Alan C and Page, Jeffrey W for \$700,000 on 11/18/24

6 Murray Ave #9 was sold to Moore, Andrew D by Assarsson-Krentz, Ann for \$750,000 on 11/18/24

12 Pleasant St was sold to J Rt and Barr, Joseph by Waite Rt and Lockhead, Bettyann W for \$735,000 on 11/15/24

12 Sandra Ave was sold to Upland Mtg Loan TB and Wilmington Svgs Fund Soc by Picardi, Linda and Wilmington Svgs Fund Soc for \$800,000 on 11/15/24

### LYNNFIELD

60 Howard Ave was sold to Dalamangas, Nicole and Doyle, Justin M by Ells, Caren S and Ells, Richard B for \$730,000 on 11/18/24

12 Lakeview Dr was sold to Clouse, Austin and Clouse, Laura by Julian, Christina and Julian, Kevin for \$810,000 on 11/14/24

22 Maywood Rd was sold to Buccigross, Henry and Sordillo, Antonio G by Ma, Sanhan and Tang, Wensi for \$716,000 on 11/14/24

9 Roundy Rd was sold to Tringale Jr, Steven J and Tringale, Ashley by Bjoertomt, Otto and Broom, Lauren B for \$945,000 on 11/15/24

19 Vokes Ter was sold to Klimowicz, Kristin and Sutherland, Cody by Baldini-Lingel, Crystal and Lingel, James W for \$625,000 on 11/15/24

27 Cedar St was sold to Lin, Tian J by Ostrom, Abigail F and Jacobi, Erinn K for \$660,000 on 11/15/24

280 Martins Lndg #8503 was sold to St Bernard, Anne by Pulte Hm Of New Eng LLC

for \$514,995 on 11/15/24

Martis Landing Condo #7105 was sold to Pelletier, Nancy L by Pulte Hm Of New Eng LLC for \$214,100 on 11/14/24

### READING

36 Augustus Ct #3012 was sold to Flaherty, Barbara T by J & J Viglione RET and Viglione, James R for \$669,000 on 11/18/24

176 Salem St was sold to Welch, Savanna G and Fusco, Nicholas A by Kelly, Jeffrey F and Kelly, Danielle for \$713,500 on 11/15/24

8 Woburn St was sold to Kelly, Jeffrey F and Kelly, Danielle by Berry, Christopher and Green, Charlotte for \$999,900 on 11/15/24

### STONEHAM

32 Parkway Rd was sold to Boulay, David J by Kane Lauren A Est and Kane, Vincent for \$870,000 on 11/14/24

### TEWKSBURY

91 Babicz Rd was sold to 91 Babicz Road Nt and Steele, Parker by Murphy, Nicholas for \$1,200,000 on 11/15/24

19 Bruce St was sold to Depiero, Nicole and Leger, Justin by Myers, Martha J for \$665,000 on 11/15/24

53 Emerald Ct #53 was sold to Murphy Sr, Raymond M and Murphy, Cheryl L by Emerald Court T and Scott, Margaret A for \$714,000 on 11/14/24

### WAKEFIELD

84 Brewster St was sold to Capra, Robert by Neumann, Christopher and Neumann, Sierra for \$640,000 on 11/15/24

4 Fairmount Ter was sold to Brown, Bridgette A and Brown, Tyler D by Snow, Patrick A and Snow, Jessica L for \$1,035,000 on 11/15/24

37 Heritage Ln was sold to CDG Investments LLC by Giblin Patricia A Est and Giblin, Steven L for \$690,000 on 11/15/24

Lancaster Rd was sold to Total Temperature Contr I by Wakefield Lancaster LLC for

\$400,000 on 11/14/24

47 Pine St was sold to Lourie, Nathan and Lourie, Abigail by Clans Ft and Sordello, Lisa for \$850,000 on 11/14/24

3 Richardson St #B4 was sold to Butler, Justin A by Lehane Joseph T Est and Lehane, Christine M for \$325,000 on 11/14/24

58 Tamworth Hill Ave was sold to Mordaunt, Timothy and Mordaunt, Stephanie by Clairmont, Amanda L and Teatom, Matthew K for \$1,105,000 on 11/15/24

### WILMINGTON

21 Blackstone St was sold to Hobbs, Keith B by Hobbs, John S and Hobbs, Florence for \$300,000 on 11/18/24

9 Dadant Dr was sold to Temmallo, Pamela by Sampson, Edward J for \$382,357 on 11/14/24

8 Edwards Rd was sold to Manzi, Nicholas E and Manzi, Allison S by Manni Ft and Grasso, Dawn M for \$600,000 on 11/15/24

118 Lake St was sold to Attenborough, Ian and Attenborough, Angelica by Holman Diane B Est and Doyle, Heather A for \$710,000 on 11/15/24

2 Quincy St was sold to Lutz, Christie and Lutz, Clinton P by Siannas, Maria and Siannas, Jo-Ann for \$572,500 on 11/15/24

672 Woburn St was sold to Carr, Natasha and Carr, Samuel R by Foley, Brian J for \$594,900 on 11/15/24

### WINCHESTER

118 Forest St was sold to Lewandowski, Brian A and Lewandowski, Kara E by Smith, Jay B and Smith, Jean P for \$1,800,000 on 11/18/24

33 Oxford St was sold to Santarpio Jr, Gary and Marshall, Christina by Delaney-Winn, Elaine and Winn 3rd, William A for \$2,285,000 on 11/18/24

201 Washington St #201 was sold to Moura, Marc and Moura, Eve by Meller, Amy and Meller, Jason for \$1,080,000 on 11/15/24

247 Washington St #9 was sold to Charles,

Stephanie and Lonn, William by Bess, Jane E for \$555,000 on 11/15/24

64 Woodside Rd was sold to Altawil, Zaid and De Redon, Emily by Santarpio Jr, Gary and Marshall, Christina S for \$1,650,000 on 11/15/24

### WOBURN

100 Baldwin Ave #23 was sold to Lin, Hongda and Gao, Jian by Tangutoori, Vamsidhar and Pratapa, Shruti for \$855,000 on 11/18/24

3 Baldwin Green Cmn #309 was sold to Silvestro, Richard and Silvestro, Stefania by USA Prestigious Clothier for \$220,000 on 11/18/24

14 Brae Cir was sold to Foley, Brian J and Aiello, Leanne M by Murphy, Pearl D for \$814,000 on 11/15/24

269 Cambridge Rd #109 was sold to Chalas, John by Shea, Kathleen for \$410,000 on 11/15/24

16 Church St #16 was sold to Qian, Hong and Li, Gang by Fan, Shun for \$1,150,000 on 11/15/24

39 Derby Dr #39 was sold to Donald P Queenin Irt and Queenin, Christopher by West Dev Corp for \$869,900 on 11/18/24

12 James St was sold to Smith, Nicholas by Francis, Jenna M and Francis, Shelby K for \$655,000 on 11/18/24

4 Jones Ave was sold to Norton, Thomas R by Wilson, Timothy and Street, Alexis for \$635,000 on 11/15/24

4 Markham Ter was sold to Holland, Daniel by Donald P Queenin Irt and Queenin, Christopher for \$1,127,500 on 11/15/24

237 Montvale Ave was sold to Connor, Christian R by Deering, Charles and Dawson, Sally for \$800,000 on 11/18/24

8 Prescott Way was sold to Romkey, Brett and Corcoran, Lily by Piazza Jr, Angelo and Piazza, Patricia E for \$825,000 on 11/15/24

37 Revere Rd was sold to Ratcliffe Jr, Robert C and Ratcliffe, Laura J by Tirella, Terence M and Tirella, Alyssa D for \$1,200,000

## Saint Joseph School Cross Country Wrap Up



THE SAINT JOSEPH SCHOOL (WAKEFIELD) HAWKS had another successful Cross Country season! Christian Guild, Caroline Skeirik and Lauren Ronan got medals at our final league meet at Bishop Fenwick. The team had a lot of laughs and fun at our end of year banquet. Our new team captains Christian Guild and Sarah Hickey were also chosen at the



dinner. Thank you Coach Mike Bradford for your dedication to this very special team. His guidance really brought out the best of each and every runner! Photo left, Christian Guild (center), Caroline Skeirik and Lauren Ronan with Coach Bradford. Photo right, Christian Guild (left) and Sarah Hickey (right) with Coach Bradford (center). (Courtesy Photos)

## ME Santa Needs You!

Sharing is Caring • All proceeds assist local families

Middlesex East Publications, in association with the Salvation Army will sponsor "M.E. Santa" this holiday season to benefit needy individuals and families in the area. In many past years, the Salvation Army has worked quietly within the communities. But this year it is asking for assistance due to increased pressure to provide services. Funds will be distributed locally in the M.E. communities which include: Wilmington, Tewksbury, No. Reading, Lynnfield, Reading, Stoneham, Burlington, Wakefield and Winchester.

A list of contributors will be published in Middlesex East throughout December. Corporations and individuals are encouraged to include their names as part of their donations as efforts are made to promote the fund. The "M.E. Santa" effort is actually part of the Salvation Army's ongoing service program.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY/TOWN _____
Please accept my donation of \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
Please mail to: "M.E. SANTA" c/o Daily Times Chronicle 36 Commerce Way, Unit 410 • Woburn, MA 01801

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ARMY  
**PLEASE  
HELP!**

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MOST GOOD  
ONE LIFE AT A TIME.

Donations should be mailed to:  
"M.E. SANTA"  
c/o Daily Times Chronicle  
36 Commerce Way, Unit 410  
Woburn, MA 01801





## Tewksbury Police Log

### Police unable to find car reportedly driving on wrong side of road on Route 38 near Villa Roma Pizza

Monday, December 2

8:23 a.m. - Multiple callers reported the gate was malfunctioning at train tracks near East Street. Police sent for traffic control. Technician on scene.

10:45 p.m. - Drug unit at Motel 6 for suspicious activity for the both vehicles. All parties checked out fine.

11:33 p.m. - A 911 caller reported husband having a mental breakdown and believed bugs were in his skin at Foster Road. Police sent. No domestic disturbance. Mental health issue for the male party. Officer filed a report.

Tuesday, December 3

12:19 p.m. - Caller stated male wearing dark clothing and glasses with white eagle on the jacket going door to door in area of Moonlight Drive and Sunset Circle. Police sent. They were out with a male at Fieldstone Circle. They stated male works for the town hall.

1:59 p.m. - Caller at Baystate Avenue reported a suspicious male knocked on door in the area. Male

was described as tall, wearing a black jacket and a hat. Police sent. No one matching the description found, except an elderly male with a blue coat walking his dog.

6:26 p.m. - Caller reported black Chevy Malibu driving erratic, braking for no reason, passing on the double yellow line at North Street and Andover Street. Police sent, but gone on arrival.

8:02 p.m. - Female caller reported a dark-colored Sonata driving erratically northbound on Route 38 around Alfresco's. Vehicle went through the red light also crossing lines. Caller turned on to Pinewood white vehicle went through red light at Alfresco requesting Dracut to perform a well being check for them. Vehicle was not at location. Police sent and filed a report.

Wednesday, December 4

7:42 a.m. - Caller reported she saw a black sedan driving on the wrong side of traffic, pulled out of Victor Drive onto Route 38, and then pulled into the parking lot at Villa Roma Pizza. Requesting an offi-

cer check the area. Police sent. The vehicle was gone on arrival.

5:05 p.m. - Caller reported an unwanted party at Home Depot Fulfillment Center. Male party was in his vehicle, Honda CRV dark. Police sent. Head of security wished to have this party no trespass. It was a different male in the vehicle. Misunderstanding and would be handled by the facility secure.

6:54 p.m. - Caller reported a suspicious truck had been parked in the business parking lot across from her home for 30 minutes at East Street. She believed no one should be parked there, but doesn't want to speak with an officer. Vehicle had left and the caller still declined to speak with an officer.

11 p.m. - Caller reported a noise complaint at Ames Hill Drive. Caller decided that she actually didn't want an officer sent just wanted to be heard by somebody.

Thursday, December 5

9:34 a.m. - Manager called in because there was a man exposing himself to

an associate and left in a brown SUV unsure direction of travel at Walmart. Described as hispanic male approximate six foot two, heavy set, gray sweatshirt, red hat, and dark pants. Police sent. They spoke to the manager and he stated there was a misunderstanding and the incident happened two years ago.

10:13 a.m. - The manager said there was a person who kept calling the store back to back at Burger King. Police sent. They spoke with the manager and reported it was not annoying phone calls. It was a customer complaint.

1:18 p.m. - The manager called because there were guests with an unpaid bill refusing to leave at Extended Stay America. Police sent. The guests were described as three white females early 20's, one with brown wavy hair, one with black hair, and one with brown hair. The manager stated the young women went to McDonald's to wait for an Uber. They were not refusing to leave. They did not have a problem with leaving. Police sent and officer filed a report.

8:59 p.m. - Police sent at East Street and Chandler Street for an erratic driver. They reported the driver was lost while delivering food. No signs of impairment.

11:32 p.m. - Security system company reported an unauthorized vehicle pick up at Atamian Honda. No vehicles were stolen. One male dropped off another male and both left in vehicles off the premises. Police sent. Officer checked the area. Everything appeared to be in order.

Friday, December 6

7:13 p.m. - Front desk worker reported that the male involved was back at the hotel at Fairfield Inn and threatened the front desk again as he made his way up to his room. He was currently in the second floor. Police sent. No threats were made and would update his current report.

8:22 p.m. - A 911 caller stated someone stole his charging spot at Walmart. Police sent. Officer spoke to involved parties and confirmed there was no crime but just a disagreement over those turn it was for the charger.

Saturday, December 7

9:51 a.m. - Caller stated there was a black and yellow truck parked across the street from her driveway at Pinnacle Street. She stated male party went into the woods. Police sent and officer spoke to the caller. Vehicle was gone on arrival.

Sunday, December 8

3:02 p.m. - Caller stated an erratic driver going over the yellow line at Whipple Road and Rivers Street. Police sent. Lowell Police Department was notified.

11:49 p.m. - A 911 caller stated the house was condemned by the health department and the front door was open at Northgate Road. Police sent. Building checked and no one was inside. Doors did not lock and got opened by the wind.



## Wilmington Police Log

### Local resident issued summons for alleged shoplifting

Wednesday, Nov. 27:

7:43 a.m. - A blue 2016 Ford Focus hit a fence on Adams Street. No injuries were reported, and no airbags were deployed.

12:14 p.m. - A caller on Boutwell Street reported a fight at the tennis courts, with two people fighting and multiple others recording the fight on their phones. Police came and sent all the children at the scene home with their parents.

1:31 p.m. - Phyllis M Beaty of 50 Webster Ave., in Woburn, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended or revoked registration. This followed police responding to a breakdown of her black 2008 Subaru Tribeca.

Thursday, Nov. 28:

10:46 a.m. - A caller on Main Street reported a woman in a purple sweater yelling at a pharmacist over an unfilled medication. Police arrived, and the transaction was able to be carried out peacefully.

Friday, Nov. 29:

1:48 a.m. - A gray 2007 Honda Pilot was involved

in a motor vehicle accident on Aldrich Road after the driver fell asleep at the wheel. Property damage was reported at a house on the road, and the driver denied medical attention and was picked up by their parents.

8:12 a.m. - The Water Department reported that their station on Lowell Street had been vandalized, with the gate kicked in and the no parking sign ripped off.

6:36 p.m. - A caller at the CVS on Main Street reported that two men, one wearing a hoodie and a beanie, and a blonde woman had stolen two or three baskets of items from the store, one of the baskets apparently containing OTC medications, and were last seen heading towards the car wash.

6:36 p.m. - A caller at the CVS on Main Street reported that two men, one wearing a hoodie and a beanie, and a blonde woman had stolen two or three baskets of items from the store, one of the baskets apparently containing OTC medications, and were last seen heading towards the car wash. However, even after checking the area and reviewing security camera footage, police were unable to determine where the group had gone.

Sunday, Dec. 1:

2:55 a.m. - John V Joyce of 55 Jordan St., in Dracut, was issued a summons for a number plate violation to conceal ID,

operating an uninsured motor vehicle, and operating an unregistered motor vehicle. This followed a stop of his brown 2002 Lexus RX300 on Middlesex Avenue.

2:50 p.m. - Two separate callers at the Savers on Main Street reported that they were being accused of stealing by the staff. Police arrived and discovered the situation wasn't as reported, but were able to restore peace anyway.

7:02 p.m. - A white 2013 Honda Crosstour and a gray 2018 Jeep Grand Cherokee were involved in a motor vehicle accident on Lowell Street. The airbags deployed in one of the vehicles.

Monday, Dec. 2:

5:26 a.m. - Stephen Paul Bedard of 299 High Range Road, in Londonderry, NH, was issued a summons for a 1st offense of using an electronic device while operating a motor vehicle and operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license. This followed a stop of his gray 2023 Ford F150 on Eames Street.

1:41 p.m. - A beige 2003 Toyota Avalon and a blue 2021 Toyota Corolla were involved in a motor vehicle accident on Eames Street.

4:28 p.m. - A walk-in party reported having been the victim of identity theft and having fraudulent debit cards issued in his name.

Tuesday, Dec. 3:

8:47 a.m. - A black 2020 Nissan Pathfinder, a gray 2023 Tesla Model 3, and another vehicle were involved in a three-car motor vehicle accident on the I-93 highway, just before exit 30. It's not known if anyone was injured, and state police handled the situation.

11:24 a.m. - Amanda Nicole LaFauci of 5 Allen Park Dr., in Wilmington, was issued a summons for three counts of larceny under \$1,200. This followed a loss prevention officer at the Target on Ballardvale Street reporting a past shoplifting.

Wednesday, Dec. 4:

7:34 a.m. - A gray 2018 Nissan Rogue and a red 2021 Kia Sportage were involved in a motor vehicle accident on Main Street.

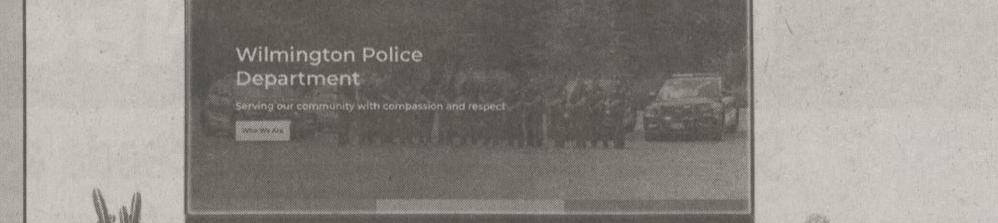
Street. A section of Middlesex Avenue was temporarily closed as one of the cars was blocking the roadway.

7:57 a.m. - A gray 2010 Toyota Prius and a gray 2010 Nissan Sentra were involved in a motor vehicle accident on Salem Street. Airbags were deployed, but no injuries were reported. Keolis was notified to slow down trains in the area due to heavy traffic in the area.

6:21 p.m. - Nelson G Molina Jr. of 375 Upham St., in Melrose, was arrested for OUI-Liquor over .08% and a marked lanes violation. This followed his involvement in a motor vehicle accident between his white 2022 Subaru Legacy and a gray 2021 Chevy Tahoe near Cooke's Skate Supply on Main Street.

Thursday, Dec. 5:

8:21 p.m. - A caller at Greg's Roast Beef on Main Street stated that she had just been the victim of a hit-and-run, with an elderly woman rear-ending her white 2011 Ford Edge, heavily damaging both vehicles, and taking off. Despite searching the area, police were unable to find the other driver of the vehicle.



(Courtesy photo)

### Wilmington Police Dept. launches new website

WILMINGTON — Chief Joseph Desmond is pleased to announce that the Wilmington Police Department has launched a new website.

The new site, wpd.org, now features an interactive homepage with user-friendly features and a modern design.

From the homepage, users can access information about the various resources offered by the department. Resources include child passenger safety, CPR courses, Citizens Police Academy, medication disposal, and more.

Visitors can also learn more about the department's divisions including operations, detective, and animal control.

Users will now have access to various forms such as records requests, commendations and complaints, and anonymous tips.

The website will be updated with news and events, and community members are encouraged to subscribe to the site to stay up-to-date. Users are also encouraged to check out Department social media platforms including Twitter/X, Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube, which can be easily accessed directly from the site.

The website was designed by John Guilfoil Public Relations.

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## SPORTS



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024



▲ The Shawsheen Tech Rams celebrate after capturing the Division 5 State Title Friday at Gillette Stadium.

(Credit Image: James Thomas)

# Shawsheen Tech football wins DIV. 5 STATE TITLE

Rams knock off  
Foxborough  
to capture crown,  
cap off  
undefeated season

By JASON COOKE  
Sports Correspondent  
[sports@yourtowncrier.com](mailto:sports@yourtowncrier.com)

**FOXBOROUGH** — Friday night marked the perfect ending to a perfect season for the Shawsheen Tech football team.

Under the lights at Gillette Stadium, the top-seeded Rams blanked No. 3 Foxborough in its own backyard, 14-0, to claim the Div. 5 Super Bowl trophy and cap off an undefeated 13-0 fall campaign.

It was none other than senior quarterback Sid Tildsley who came through for the Rams, netting a pair of rushing touchdowns while hauling in an interception to push Shawsheen to victory.

"It means so much to our community," said Ram coach Al Costabile. "Our community was behind us all the way and it means so much to our school and our community. To be 14 years without it, it sure feels good."

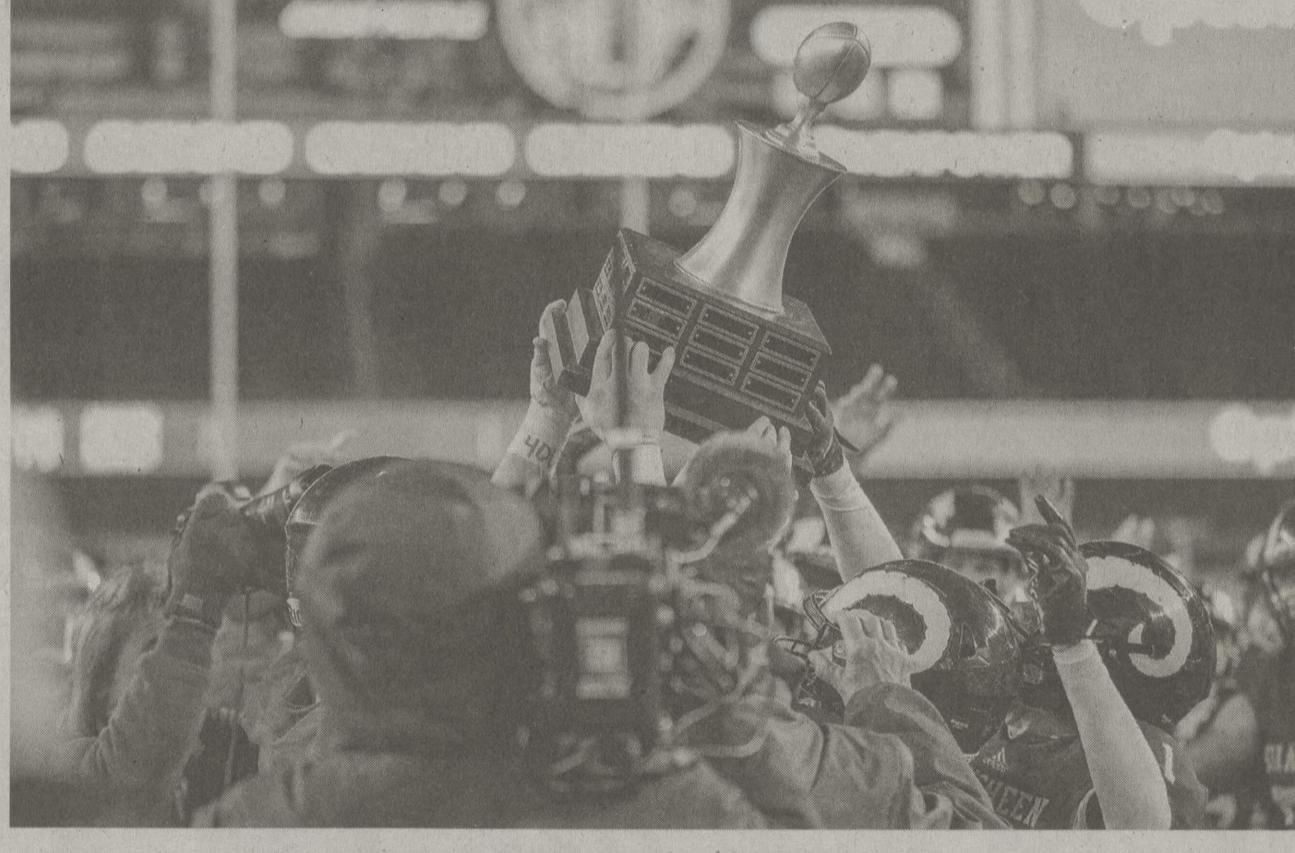
The Rams, who fell to the Warriors in last post-season's Final Four by a 42-12 score, enjoyed a taste of sweet revenge on the big stage to earn their first state title since 2010.

"It feels real sweet. We

hurt after that one for a long time," said Costabile. But anticipation of who

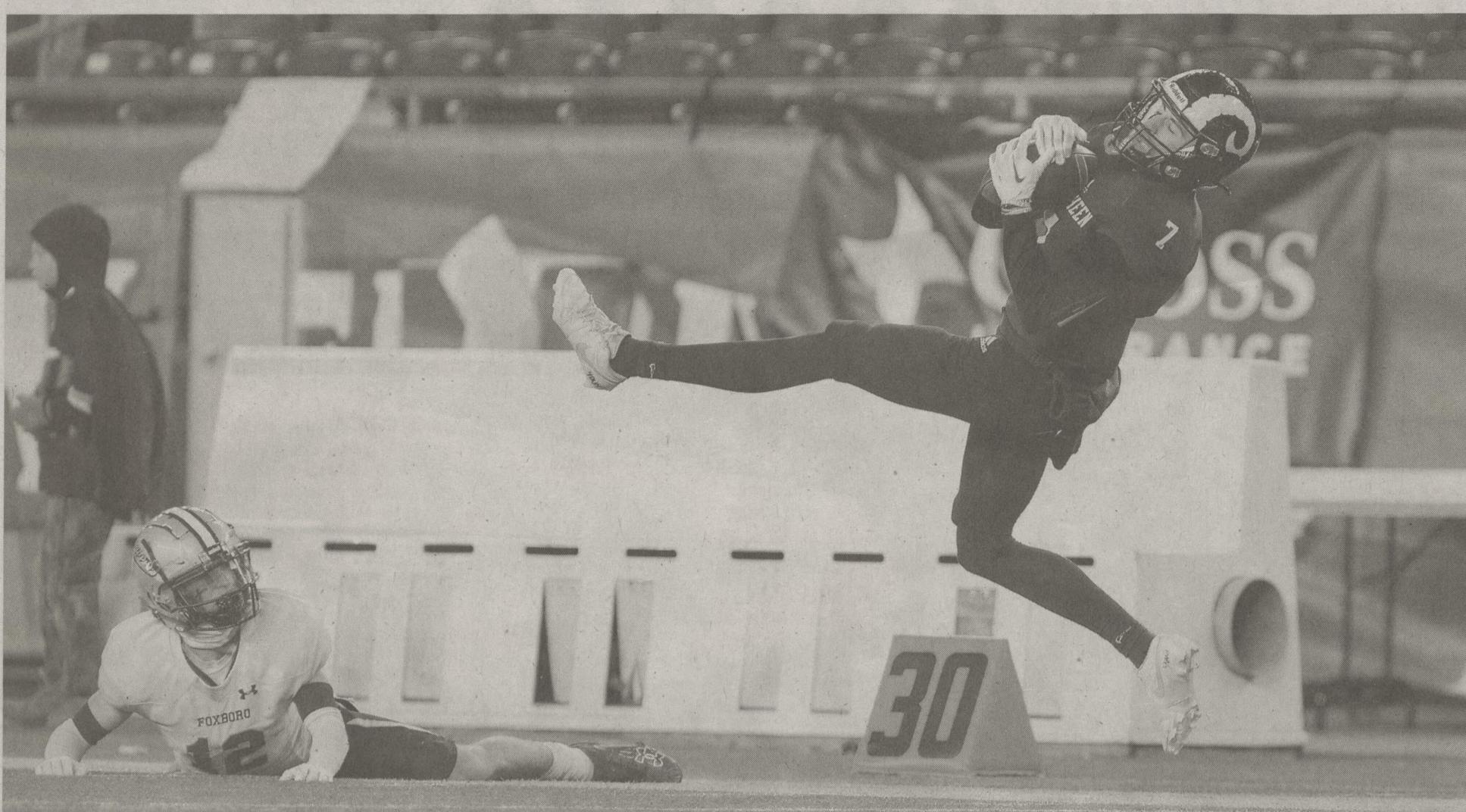
TITLE | PAGE B6

► The Shawsheen Tech Rams hoist the Agganis Trophy after winning the Division 5 Super Bowl Friday at Gillette Stadium. (Credit Image: James Thomas)

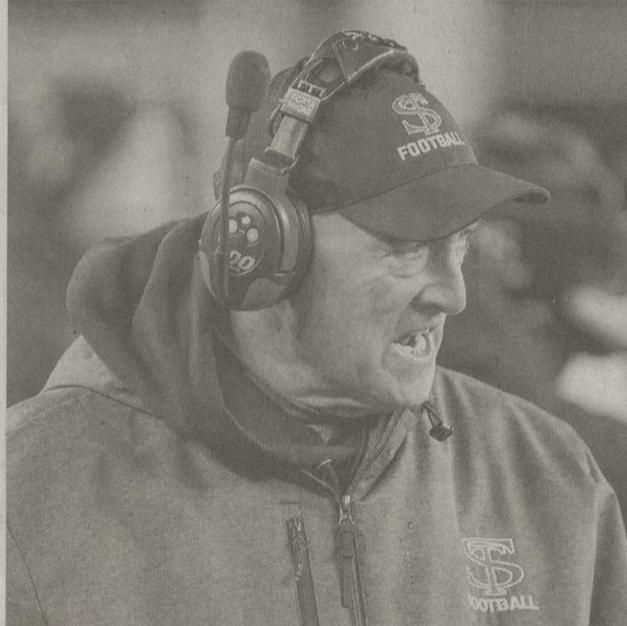


► Shawsheen Tech's Cullen Walsh (56) hoists the Agganis Trophy after Shawsheen secured a 14-0 win over Foxboro to capture the Division 5 State Title Friday at Gillette Stadium.

(Credit Image: James Thomas)



▲ Shawsheen Tech's Dylon Pratt (7) makes a leaping catch during Friday's Division 5 Super Bowl at Gillette Stadium. Shawsheen earned a 14-0 victory over Foxboro.  
(Credit Image: James Thomas)



▲ Shawsheen Tech head coach Al Constable coached the Rams to a 14-0 win against Foxboro to capture the Division 5 State Championship Friday at Gillette Stadium.  
(Credit Image: James Thomas)

## Ram football wins Division 5 championship

TITLE FROM PAGE B5

would score first ultimately loomed over the majority of Friday's clash.

Scoreless into the fourth quarter, it was an all-out defensive duel, and offense was hard to come by in the near-freezing temperatures.

There were nine punts in the first half as both teams traded the football in a struggle to establish an at-

tack. When both teams headed to their respective tunnels, just 46 yards of combined offense had been produced. Highlighting the defensive stand was Shawsheen's Will Holloway, who intercepted Mike Marcucella midway through the first quarter.

"The defense played fantastic," said Costabile. "Outstanding. I'm so proud of them."

Tildsley gave the War-

riors a scare on Shawsheen's first possession of the second frame, returning a punt to the 16-yard line, but was ultimately sacked on fourth down to relinquish any scoring threat.

A similar story plagued the third quarter, as both sidelines attempted to adapt to the potent opposing defense.

Shawsheen was first to do so, and Tildsley had his

name written all over the effort. Tildsley (4-for-11, 46 yards) found Dylon Pratt on third down for a 10-yard gain to move the sticks before a 22-yard connection to Zack Timmons placed the Rams in the red zone.

Tildsley then dove past the goal line for a one-yard score to give the Rams a lead they'd hold onto until the final buzzer. Tildsley rushed the ball 21 times for 65 yards on Friday.

Jack Finn's first of two successful extra-point tries was good, and the Rams led 7-0 with 7:15 left in the fourth quarter.

The Rams stayed strong on defense.

Jake Banda intercepted Marcucella, returning his grab to the Warriors' one-yard line to open the door for another quarterback sneak by Tildsley. His touchdown with 2:37 left in the game was enough to complete the perfect season.

"The best players made the big plays when the big plays needed to be made," said Costabile.

The look on every Ram sprinting to midfield to hoist the trophy said it all.

"These kids work so hard to make this dream come true," Costabile said. "The kids, the coaches, I'm so proud of them. I'm so proud of all of them. I just couldn't be happier for them, and they deserve it."



▲ Shawsheen Tech's Sidney Tildsley (12) runs for a big gain during Friday's Division 5 Super Bowl at Gillette Stadium.  
(Credit Image: James Thomas)



▲ Shawsheen Tech's Zack Timmons (33) is tackled from behind on a short run during Friday's Division 5 Super Bowl at Gillette Stadium.  
(Credit Image: James Thomas)



▲ Shawsheen Tech's James Tildsley (right) is congratulated by Cullen Walsh (56) after making a big defensive stop during Friday's Division 5 Super Bowl at Gillette Stadium.  
(Credit Image: James Thomas)



Shawsheen Tech's Jake Banda (right) and brother Eric Banda (57) celebrate Shawsheen Tech's Division 5 Super Bowl win Friday at Gillette Stadium.

(Credit Image: James Thomas)



▲ Shawsheen Tech's Sidney Tildsley (12) scrambles behind the line of scrimmage to find an open receiver during Friday's Division 5 Super Bowl at Gillette Stadium. Shawsheen Tech was a 14-0 winner.

(Credit Image: James Thomas)

► The Shawsheen Tech cheerleaders perform during Friday's Division 5 Super Bowl at Gillette Stadium.

Credit Image: James Thomas



The Dougout:

# Rams beat Warriors from coast to coast

By DOUG HASTINGS  
Sports Correspondent  
[sports@yourtowncrier.com](mailto:sports@yourtowncrier.com)

Every December I do a pilgrimage to Texas to see the Dallas Cowboys play. This year, the timing was awful.

But... while I wasn't on the sidelines to see the Shawsheen Tech football team beat Foxborough for the Div. 5 state title, I did see some Rams beat some Warriors.

On Thursday, I took in Texas high school football and a state semifinal game between the Joaquin High Rams and the Honey Grove High School Warriors.

Rams vs. Warriors.

No kidding.

In the end, the game was tied at halftime before the Rams pulled away in the second half to earn a victory.

The Texas Rams won by a little more, 46-22, but the script was similar to what transpired in Foxborough the next night.

Just for the record, I was cheering for the Rams on Thursday too.

## Shawsheen wins!

Patriots.com was nice enough to live stream the Super Bowl games and I was lucky enough to catch every snap of Shawsheen's 14-0 win over Foxborough.

Some random thoughts from a championship season.

- This could be the greatest single season put forward by a technical high school in my lifetime. The Ram defense was incredible, as usual, as Foxborough struggled to sustain any drives.

- This was, as usual, an amazing team effort. From two devastating hits by junior linebacker James Tildsley, to an interception

by senior Will Holloway in the first half to a huge play by senior Nathan Malandain to create the Jake Banda interception in the second half, Shawsheen had contributions from up and down its roster. Senior Zack Timmons checked in with a vintage Timmons performance, with a big first-down carry and a huge catch in what turned out to be the game-winning drive.

- Shawsheen fans likely were holding their breath on Foxborough's first play from scrimmage, an 85-yard touchdown pass that was called back by a penalty against the Warriors in the Foxborough backfield. The game announcers questioned the call, but the flag certainly changed the landscape of the game.

- What a fitting way for Cullen Walsh's high school career to end, with a shutout. Walsh leaves Shawsheen as one of its best linemen ever and his skills on the defensive side of the ball will be difficult to replace.

- A unique situation was watching the Shawsheen family celebrate on the field afterward. Offensive coordinator Doug Pratt and his junior receiver son Dylon, assistant coach Eric Bands with his three boys Jake, Eric and Cameron and coaches Brian and Jay Tildsley with quarterback Sid and linebacker James.

- Seniors graduating this season include Tildsley, Timmons, Holloway, Walsh, Brayton Carbone, Ryan Jamieson, Jackson Goldman, Tyler LaMarca, Trent Wedge, Jack Finn, Conor Fitzgerald, Owen Becker, Joseph Menkello, Bryan Keohan, Dominic Chaffee and Nathan Melo.

▼ Fans cheer on the Shawsheen Tech Rams after a Sidney Tildsley interception during Friday's Division 5 Super Bowl at Gillette Stadium.

(Credit Image: James Thomas)



# Lifestyle

# Sweet! December is National Pear Month

By HEATHER BURNS  
News Correspondent

No fruit represents the holiday season quite like the pear.

From its mention in the song lyric "a partridge in a pear tree" to its regular appearance on holiday menus, it is not surprising that the month of December is National Pear Month.

National Pear Month celebrates everything to love about pears, from their impressive nutritional profile to their many culinary possibilities.

According to USAPEars, there are 10 varieties of U.S. pears known as winter pears. Most are available year round, but are considered in "peak" season from late November to early March.

These varieties include Bosc, D'Anjou, Comice, Forelle, Concorde, Seckel, Orcas, Rescue, Flemish Beauty, and Conference.

In general, pears are considered a soft and juicy fruit that is typically very sweet.

However, there are several varieties such as Seckel, Forelle and Bosc, that have a nice crisp texture and are not overly sweet.

Based on data from Healthline.com, pears are packed with nutrition and one medium pear has just 101 calories. This is great news for those battling with their growing holiday waistline.

Pears are high in Vitamin C, copper, folate and potassium. They are also a good source of polyphenol antioxidants, Vitamin A and fiber.

To get all the fiber benefits of a pear, be sure to eat the skin, as it contains



▲ Winter pears easily add a touch of elegance to your holiday table.

(Heather Burns photo)

up to six times more fiber than the flesh of the fruit.

Besides having wonderful flavor and nutritional value, pears have had a long standing relationship with the holiday season.

Throughout history pears have been considered a choice gift-giving idea as

the gift that symbolizes affection, particularly in a Christian context by symbolizing the love of the Virgin Mary and Child.

During Roman times, pears were considered a rare and valuable commodity.

In Renaissance times,

the popularity of pears is depicted in some of the great still-life artworks of that time.

19th century New Englanders shared a widespread love of this winter fruit that keyed the phrase "Pear Mania," describing the New England area's obsession

with pears during the mid 1800's.

During this time frame in New England history, the newly discovered Seckel pear variety became highly regarded as a late season fruit that was said to be productive, resistant to blight, and produced

high quality fruit.

The 19th century New Englander used pears for cooking, baking, canning, pickling, and fermenting into Perry, a popular alcoholic beverage of the time.

Many of these uses are still popular today, and at this festive time of the year pears can make a delicious and elegant addition to your holiday table.

From appetizers to desserts, the addition of pears can elevate almost any holiday dish.

For impressive meal starters, fresh or baked pears partner well with many types of cheeses, making for a special addition to a festive charcuterie board.

Pears mixed with spinach and other holiday favorites like cranberries, figs and nuts, makes for a nutritious and delicious holiday salad.

Roasted pears are a sweet addition to winter favorites like potatoes, turnip, and butternut squash, and pears are an easy substitute for apples in your favorite stuffing recipe.

The holiday dessert table is where the winter pear shines, making successful appearances in cakes, pies, puddings, tarts, cookies and pastries that are sure to impress.

While you prepare to celebrate the upcoming holiday day, be sure to celebrate the nutritiously delicious winter pear during National Pear Month.

The addition of this elegant and sweet fruit can benefit your daily diet as well as take your holiday menu to a new level of flavor and sophistication.

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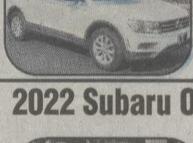
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